8 soldiers, 16 Abu kidnappers slain in Jolo clash

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 6

WITH THIS ISSUE
All about élan

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, September 7, 2002 ★ 74 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 271 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Tabang III launched for Sabah evacuees

By Leila B. Salaverria

TABANG Mindanao is launching a new fund drive, Tabang Mindanao III, for Filipinos expelled from Sabah.

It aims to raise P15 million to provide not just relief assistance to the expelled Filipinos but also livelihood opportunities. This will be augmented by P10 million from the Tabang founda-

TABANG/A19

Gov't: No takeover, just renegotiation

Perez says GMA has final say on fate of Piatco deal

CHENG YONG, Piatco president (above) and Henry T. Go, (below), ex-Piatco president at the Senate

JESS YUSON

THE LADY is not for burning in the glare of publicity during Friday's hearing before the Senate blue ribbon committee and even as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez took a position contrary to that of Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco. JESS YUSON

By Michael Lim Ubac, Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno

THE BOTTOM line in the controversial Naia Terminal 3 dispute is "renegotiation."

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the chair of a seven-member Cabinet committee tasked to review the contract awarded to Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), said yesterday that the Macapagal administration was keen on renegotiating the deal.

Perez admitted that the final word on the contract was "renegotiation," and "not for cancellation, not for takeover."

When Perez was asked if his views would be shared by Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, the presidential adviser for strategic projects, Perez said: "No. I don't like takeovers. Well, if she wants takeover, then my statement is against a takeover. Because what I want really is a discussion of the issues rather than taking over the contract."

While noting that the President would have the final say on the matter, he said his committee had been tasked not just to review the Piatco contract but also to renegotiate it.

"Yes (we should renegotiate) because I want the business sector to understand that the government is here not to oppress the business sector but to assist (it). So if there is a perception that there is something wrong

GOV'T/A18

Sabah claim council revived

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OFFICIALLY drawing attention to the Philippines' claim to Sabah, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the revival of the long-dormant advisory body on the territory in the northern tip of Borneo.

The President signed an executive order reconstituting the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council on Sabah during a five-hour briefing for legislators in Malacañang.

The council was formed in 1993 by then President Fidel Ramos. It did not convene again after the initial meeting.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the council would conduct a "quiet, intensive and sustained study" on the Sabah claim "so the President can be advised on how to go about this."

Angered by the maltreatment of thousands of Filipinos expelled from Sabah, a number of sectors had been urging the government to revive the Philippines' claim. But Ms Macapagal had said the claim should be tackled separately from the maltreatment issue.

"We're not renouncing the Sabah claim in any way," Ople said yesterday. "There's nothing to revive (because) the claim has never been relinquished."

Ople is confident that bilateral ties with Malaysia would remain cordial despite the move.

SABAH/A19

RP may send raped girl back to Sabah to testify

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said the government would consider sending back to Malaysia the 13-year-old Filipino girl allegedly raped prior to expulsion, but the chair of the House committee on foreign relations opposed the idea.

"If the Malaysian legal system requires this, then we have to study how we can comply because she needs to testify," Ople said in Malacañang after a briefing for legislators on the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah.

"Just to make sure a trial is held and a successful one at that, we will consider complying," he said, quickly adding that Malaysia has yet to make a formal request.

Ople also said the girl, being a minor, could just testify through video. He said lawyers of the Department of Foreign Affairs could work out a suitable arrangement.

But Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said the girl's supposed rapists should face trial here.

"We unanimously agreed that we're not in favor of sending the girl back because we feel . . . it will have a tremendous effect on her," he said. "But we're in favor of inviting the Malaysians to have their hearing here, maybe at the DFA."

The nine-member mission led by Nur Jaafar, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on Muslim affairs, has confirmed the "inhumane treatment" of thousands of Filipinos in detention centers in Sabah.

The team returned from Sabah Thursday night and reported its findings to the President yesterday morning prior to the briefing for legislators.

It said, "abuses certainly occur, but (there is) no indication that they are widespread."

It noted the cases of the 13-year-old alleged rape victim and that of a mentally ill 20-year-old woman from Pagadian City.

"While allegations of the in

RP/A19

Waiting for 'boat people,' Sabaya right-hand man falls

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Something good has come out of the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah.

The supposed right-hand man of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, Daud Daim alias Kumander Daim and Daud Musa, was at the Basilan Port to collect his brother Jahiman, who arrived from Sabah, when sighted by "spotters" last Thursday, according to Basilan police director Bensali Jabarani. He had a P1-million prize on his head.

The spotters immediately reported the sighting to authorities, who dispatched arresting officers to the port.

"(Daim) is the real right hand, the second in command of Sabaya's group," Jabarani told the INQUIRER. He credited Daim's arrest to "two months of close surveillance" by police intelligence officers.

Daim, 22, and a native of Kumalarang village here, faces 52 charges of kidnapping for ransom and serious illegal detention.

Jabarani said that during tactical interrogation, Daim admitted participation in the Abu Sayyaf's kidnapping activities including the May 2001 raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, and in the subsequent siege of Lamitan town.

In an interview with the INQUIRER at the Basilan provincial

WAITING/A19

FILIPINO GLOBAL NETWORK

Manila 'invades' San Francisco

By Chandler E. Ramas III
Contributor

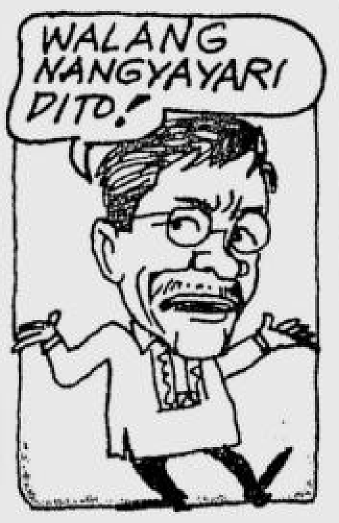
SAN FRANCISCO—For one wonderful weekend, the Golden Bay Bridge in this city stretched all the way to the Pearl of the Orient Sea.

Bus drivers hollering "Quiapo!" and "Dimasalang!" over blaring speakers. Militant activists hurtling down Market Street with chants of "Oust US troops now!" People wearing Philippine-made shirts with Filipino expressions, such as "*buwisit*," "*malikot*," "*bastos*," "*napabayaan sa kusina*" and more. Filipino souvenirs available all over the place, such as the popular tubao (ethnic headgear), Filipino paintings, even delicacies from Pampanga.

Even if only for two days last week, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, San Francisco was Philippine territory, when the biggest number of Filipinos and Filipino Americans in the United States gathered in one place.

Close to 6,000 Filipinos from all over the United States, including nearby Seattle and faraway New York, jammed the Yerba Buena Gardens and the

MANILA/A18


WALANG NANGYAYARI DITO!

Satur finds life as solon disappointing

BAGUIO CITY—Do you really want to know what they do in Congress? Ask Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo. He has no regrets joining the government, but had some unflattering observations about his colleagues in Congress.

"I have no regrets joining Congress, just as I have no regrets in my other past options in life.

SATUR/A18

8 soldiers, 16 Abus slain in Jolo encounter

By Julie Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Eight soldiers and 16 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed yesterday in the first major clash since the military announced an "end game" offensive against the al-Qaida-linked guerrillas.

The guerrillas were believed to be holding three Indonesians and four local women hostage on Jolo.

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, SouthCom chief, said at least 14 soldiers, including two MNLF returnees, were also wounded in the biggest gunbattle in more than two months, on the eastern side of Mount Bagsak near Patikul.

The guerrillas were believed to have suffered an undetermined number of casualties in the hour-long fight in the jungles of Jolo, but comrades dragged them away from the scene, Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino told reporters.

There were no sightings of the hostages during the encounter.

Two helicopter gunships

8 SOLDIERS/A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Moderate winds blowing from the Southwest will prevail over Western Luzon and the coastal waters over these areas will be moderate.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/06/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

DOJ junks plea to free 122 Sinos

Perez: Poachers 'must pay the fine'

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday rejected a plea from Foreign Secretary Blas Ople for the unconditional release of 122 Chinese poachers ahead of the visit next week of the chair of China's National People's Congress, former premier Li Peng.

"We can't just release them. They must pay the fine and suffer the consequences of their actions," said Perez.

Perez said the government was "willing to prosecute and we intend to prosecute," even as he disclosed receiving a Senate resolution filed by administration Senators Francisco Pangilinan, Noli De Castro and Manny Villar urging him to pursue the case.

Li Peng, who will be visiting from Sept. 12 to 15, was invited by House Speaker Jose de Venecia to attend the third meeting of the Association of Asian parliaments for Peace.

A statement from the Chinese embassy yesterday said Li would "meet the state leaders of the Philippines, exchange views with them extensively on the bilateral relations as well as international and regional situations" during the visit.

Last month, the government barred Taiwanese Vice President Annette Lu from making a stopover here after a controversial visit to Indonesia.

'Act of goodwill'

The government's action was designed to ensure that Li would pursue his planned visit, according to Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja. The Philippines recognizes Beijing and regards Taiwan as part of China.

To further smooth the way for Li's visit, Ople requested the justice department to release as an "act of goodwill" the 122 Chinese caught poaching in Philippine waters earlier this year.

China and the Philippines have rival claims on the Spratly islands and the Scarborough Shoal, both in the South China Sea.

Chinese fishermen are routinely caught by the Philippine military while allegedly poaching in the waters of these two disputed territories and in Palawan.

In the latest incident, Navy troops detained 14 Chinese fishermen who claimed to be taking shelter in Scarborough Shoal.

The 122 Chinese were part of a total of 136 Chinese caught allegedly poaching either in the Scarborough Shoal or the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan from January to May this year. However, authorities released 14 fishermen who were found to be minors. The remaining 122 are now awaiting trial in Palawan.

DOJ: Plead guilty

Perez said the only way for the 122 Chinese to be released would be for them to plead guilty to the charges of poaching and illegal possession of endangered species, and to pay the fines.

The Chinese would be liable to pay two kinds of fines, one to be denominated in pesos and the other in United States dollars. Perez said this could mean a minimum of $20 and P2,000 for each fisherman.

"That is, if they plead guilty. If they don't plead guilty, then we are going to proceed with the trial of the case," the justice secretary said.

If found guilty, they would have to serve the prison terms imposed by the court, he said. By then, they would be considered as having served whatever sentence is imposed, having been in preventive detention since their arrest, Perez explained.

Seizure of vessels

Perez also said that he would insist on the confiscation of all six vessels used by the Chinese.

"It is very important that all the vessels be confiscated by the government because if we don't do that, they will keep on coming back using the same vessels that they have been using in fishing in Philippine waters," he said.

Under the Endangered Species Law, catching giant sea turtles in Philippine waters is punishable by a maximum of six months' imprisonment. Poachers are only penalized by paying a fine ranging from P50,000 to P100,000.

In Palawan, non-government organizations and the provincial government have vowed to file legal suits, stage multi-sectoral rallies and send letters to the President and foreign secretary to protest the release of the Chinese fishermen, even those held for lesser offenses.

NGOs blast Ople

The Palawan NGOs Network Incorporated (PNNI), a coalition of 23 non-government organizations and people's organizations in the province, together with the World Wildlife Fund Phil. and the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac), are preparing to stage a protest rally against the DFA's reported plans to release the 122 Chinese.

The WWF-Phil. condemned Ople's request "as a travesty against the Filipino people."

"In some neighboring countries, Filipino fishing boats that are caught fishing illegally are boarded, stripped and burned. The people of Palawan have not done this. They have stuck to the rule of law. It is important that we give them hope, a sign, a signal that the law works," said WWF-Phil. president Lory Tan in a statement.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra has called on the people of Palawan to rally against the planned release of the Chinese.

Provincial board member Gerardo V. Ortega said the release of the Chinese fishermen would send the message that we welcome illegal fishing and we allow the destruction of our national park.

"We should implement the law to it's full extent just like what Malaysia did to the Filipinos caught in Sabah considering that the Chinese encroached in a national marine park listed as a World Heritage Site," said Ortega.

"It seems that our leaders do not have the political will to implement our laws," he said. *With a report from Geraldford P. Ticke and Dominique Monera-Tabora, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

GMA'S NEW AFP CHIEF MALACAÑANG PHOTO

President Macapagal-Arroyo and new Armed Forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor salute the colors upon her arrival at the Villamor Air Base. The President flew in from Gen. Santos City where she attended the "tuna festival."

Gov't tells 100,000 Filipinos in Italy to make their stay legal

By Blanche S. Rivera

OVER 100,000 undocumented overseas Filipino workers in Italy are being urged to take advantage of the Italian government's regularization program for illegal aliens set to start this month or early October.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said only around 20,000 of the estimated 150,000 Filipinos in Italy are properly documented and have permits to work there.

A report to the Department of Labor and Employment stipulated that those found staying and working without permit after the regularization period would face three months in jail and a fine of 5,000 euro.

Applications for regularization would be accepted within 60 days after the amnesty program's implementation.

Sto. Tomas appealed to all migrant workers and applicants for jobs abroad not to leave the country without going through the prescribed legal process.

"Please go abroad (only) with the right papers, so the government can run after your employers if anything happens to you," Sto. Tomas said, addressing would-be OFWs.

Italian law mandates employers to apply for the regularization of their foreign workers, who are mostly domestic helpers and caregivers. The employers pay from 250 to 300 euro for each worker.

Applications are submitted to the Prefecture, which issues permits to stay if the documents are complete and the employees' living accommodations meet the standard housing requirements.

Valid for two years, the permits are given only to those who have legitimate work contracts.

Sto. Tomas announced that Israel was also set to crack down on illegal aliens, which include an estimated 30,000 Filipinos.

DOLE records show that around 612,000 documented workers have left the country from January to August, with an average of 2,700 Filipinos still leaving everyday for jobs abroad.

The government aims to deploy one million OFWs every year to cushion the impact of rising local unemployment, which Sto. Tomas has blamed on the burgeoning population.

OFW kids not doing well in school

THE absence of overseas Filipino worker parents is taking a toll on the school performance of their children, according to a study by a Church-based migration watchdog group.

Children of OFWs perform poorly in school compared to children whose parents are around, said the study by the Scalabrini Migration Center, a non-government organization that helps promote the concerns of overseas Filipino workers.

"Migration has an impact on the school performance of the children," said the study which was contained in a booklet released last week by the CBCP's Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI). The ECMI is the migration arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

The study said OFW children "rank lower in class, with an almost 10-point difference in the average ranking between children with both parents present and children with both parents absent."

OFW children, particularly the ones whose mothers work abroad, receive less rewards or recognition, and have more disciplinary problems, according to the study.

"Their parents or guardians are called more often to the principal's office for a discussion on their behavior," it said.

The poor school performance was attributed to "the sense of loneliness and abandonment" felt by children of OFWs.

However, the study found that in general, migration was not "very disruptive" of the OFW children's performance in school. Moreover, the parents' absence "does not necessarily become an occasion for laziness and unruliness, except for a few." *Armand N. Nocum*

Furniture firm sues CBCP over P20-M debt

By Armand Nocum

A FURNITURE company has sued the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for failing to pay debts amounting to almost P20 million.

The charge stems from a failed Internet service business which has so far cost the influential Church organization about P190 million in losses.

The case, filed by Spinbase International Corp. on Friday last week, has been docketed as case No. MC02-190 at the Mandaluyong regional court.

The firm claimed that the CBCP failed to pay P19,787,644 worth of modular workstations, office tables and chairs it had delivered to the CBCP. They were to be used in the failed CBCPNet business.

The CBCP created the company to serve as an Internet service provider (ISP) and systems integrator "for the whole Catholic Church, schools and organizations in the Philippines."

Such an ISP capability would have enabled the Church to use the Internet for evangelization and information dissemination purposes, among others.

The lawyer of the furniture firm said "neither CBCP nor CBCPNet has paid for the . . . deliveries even though such payment has long been due and demandable."

Lawyer Reynaldo T. Dizon said that Msgr, Oscar V. Cruz, chair of the CBCPNet, had faxed letter to the firm "appealing for some consideration on their due obligation as they were allegedly exerting efforts to source out funding."

Instead of fulfilling the promise to pay, however, the CBCP launched last May 12 the CBCP World, another company with the same objectives and functions as the CBCPNet, Dizon said.

He said Spinbase's efforts since then to demand payment from the CBCP have proved futile.

He explained that the furniture firm entered into a contract sale with the CBCP through a Dec. 1, 1999 board resolution, with CBCP assistant secretary general Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III issuing a "Secretary's Certificate."

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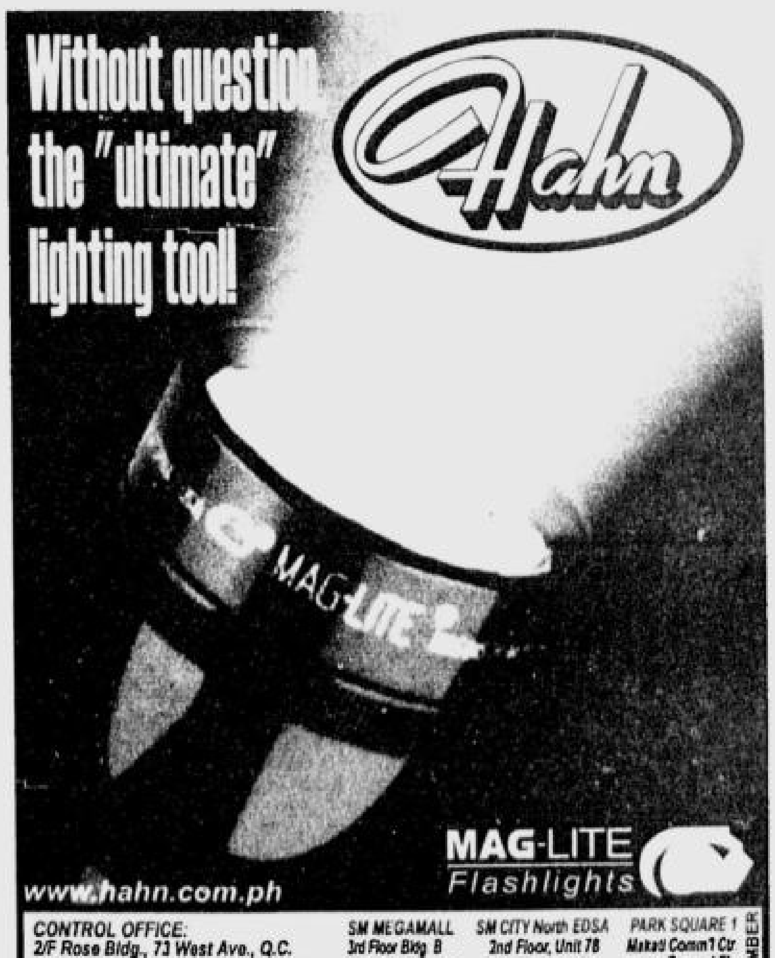

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AFAD MEMBER

Caltex cuts kerosene price; Shell plans to hike LPG price

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWO days after leading an industry-wide increase of kerosene prices by 49 centavos a liter, Caltex Phil. yesterday slashed its prices for kerosene by 10 centavos.

Caltex explained its decision to cut its price increase for kerosene as being dictated by competitive forces. Kerosene is used to fuel make-shift cooking stoves and lamps.

On Tuesday, Caltex increased local prices of oil products, citing high world crude prices and a weak peso. The firm hiked prices of gasoline and diesel by 39 centavos per liter and kerosene by 49 centavos per liter.

Also yesterday, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, the country's second largest oil refiner, said it was considering raising the retail price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) after international prices rose.

Shell spokesperson Roberto Kanapi said world LPG prices rose $25 to $28 per metric ton last month. Because of this, the company may have to increase LPG prices within the month, he said.

On Aug. 24, Shell led the way in LPG price increases, hiking its prices by 80 centavos per kilogram, which brought retail prices of an 11-kg cylinder to the P238 to P253 range.

Of the Big Three oil companies, Pilipinas Shell posted the smallest increase for kerosene, raising the pump prices for its petroleum products by 2.12 to 2.82 percent, an increase of 39 centavos per liter last Thursday.

Petron, like Caltex, will be charging 49 centavos more for a liter of kerosene.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said in a statement Petron, the country's biggest oil refiner, did not see any need to match the prices of Caltex and Shell.

"(Caltex's) move just aligns its prices with those of Petron," Ruivivar said.

She said that pump prices of petroleum products depended on the location of each refilling station and that wholesale prices may differ but competing pump prices generally level off in a given trading area.

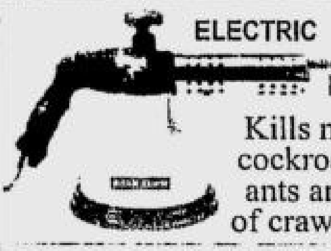
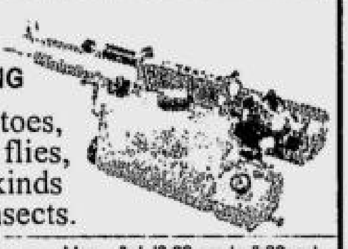
Kanapi said there was as yet no estimate of the new LPG price increase. But he said the increase in international LPG prices between May to Aug. translated to an increase of LPG costs by P1.50 per kg.

Port operators transfer to Manila

BRITISH port operator P&O Ports and Asian Terminals Inc will transfer their regional operating headquarters to Manila from Sydney, Malacañang said yesterday.

P&O Chief Operating Officer Alistair Baillie told President Macapagal-Arroyo during a courtesy call that over the medium term, another $150 million worth of investments in Philippine port business will be coming into the country as the result of the transfer, the presidential palace statement said.

Arroyo was quoted as saying the port investors' increased investment and their decision to transfer their headquarters was an affirmation of the investors' continued confidence in the Philippines. *Reuters*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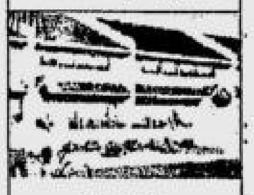
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10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Schedule of Special Events

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power! A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"The Magical Bridge to Reading and Writing: A Seminar-Workshop for Primary Grade Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
by Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo
Education Consultant

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
"Celebrity Storytelling by Ms. Christine Jacob-Sandejas"
Parents Magazine and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Philippine Robotics Society Induction of Officers"
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Chess Simul with Grand Master Eugene Torre"
Active Chess Center of Asia and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
UST Publishing House

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Adarna House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Fun Day Sunday! Featuring the Berenstein Bears Meet and Greet plus other mascots!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...In the Pinoy Writer)"
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Asean unity threatened by historic feuds

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Thailand and Burma exchange artillery fire. Indonesian workers and Filipino children die after being expelled from Malaysia. Filipinos demand a chunk of Malaysia, which in another dispute threatens to cut off water supplies to Singapore. Vietnamese troops shoot at Philippine planes.

All this is happening among countries supposed to be the closest of friends that have promised Washington to work as a close-knit team in the US-led war on terror in which Southeast Asia is regarded as a second front.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations say they want to emulate the European Union by building a politically stable, prosperous region with a single market and—possibly—even a common currency.

But the flare-ups in tensions among Asean's 10 members illustrate just how far they are from such high-minded goals.

Just last month, foreign ministers from the region and their counterparts from the Pacific Rim—including US Secretary of State Colin Powell—pledged at a meeting in Brunei to improve regional security.

Asean, which comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, also concluded an accord with Washington providing for closer cooperation in combating terrorists.

Those undertakings began to unravel even before the signatories left Brunei.

Security experts said the revival of ancient feuds and territorial claims has been sparked by domestic political pressures which are of much more immediate concern to national leaders.

"Nobody is heading for wars with each other, but these are historic issues that somehow never seem to go to bed," said Bob Broadfoot, of the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy.

"They're manageable within Asean, but they are a good indications how things change little over the years," he said.

Relations between Burma and Thailand hit their lowest point ever with a bitter war of words following a frontier incident in which Thailand fired warning shots into Burma after shells from a clash between Burma troops and rebels fell onto Thai soil.

Breaking a diplomatic taboo, Burma's state-controlled media even hurled insults at Thailand's revered monarchy.

Malaysia forced hundreds of thousands of foreign workers—mostly Indonesians and Filipinos—to flee the country after it began enforcing strict immigration laws which allow the caning and imprisonment of illegal laborers.

Several dozen Indonesian workers and members of their families are reported to have died in crowded and unsanitary camps. Filipinos complained of maltreatment, and even rape, at detention camps, where several children were reported to have died from dehydration and other ailments.

Flag burning

Protesters in both Manila and Jakarta burned Malaysian flags. Some lawmakers have urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to revive the Philippines' historic claim to the province of Sabah as reports of sexual abuse of a 13-year-old detainee by Malaysian police enflamed nationalist passions.

Manila has never dropped the claim to the region, which Malaysia has claimed as part of its territory since the 1960s.

Malaysia also is embroiled in a series of disputes with neighboring Singapore. These include the supply of vital drinking water to the tiny island of 4 million people, and Malaysian complaints that Singapore is blocking access to its Tanjung Pelapas port, which is a direct competitor for foreign shipping.

Malaysia supplies the island city-state with about half of its water and wants to increase the price. Although fresh water is plentiful in the tropical region, the dispute has forced Singapore to consider reclaiming water from waste.

Conflicting claims

And in yet another territorial squabble, Vietnamese troops based on an islet in the disputed Spratly islands fired warning shots at Philippine Air Force planes on Aug. 31 although Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has downplayed the incident.

Vietnam, the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei all have conflicting claims over the chain of atolls and reefs in the South China Sea which is believed to be atop vast oil and gas deposits.

The regional grouping has sought to play down the incidents.

"These local disputes happen all the time," said M.C. Abad, Asean's spokesperson. *AP*

Las Piñas execs sued for plunder

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday said it has uncovered a P95-million tax scam involving a real estate deal allegedly engineered by the land registration and revenue officials of Las Piñas City.

The agency's Fact Finding and Investigation Bureau (FFIB) said the officials allegedly "grossly reduced" the value of the capital gains tax and documentary stamps that should have been charged for the sale of a 50,000 sq meter property along the Alabang-Zapote Road.

The property was sold by a certain Adelaida Dolores Villa to spouses Neil and Erma Digman for P8.5 million.

In a report to Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio, the FFIB said it had discovered that only P142,000 representing documentary stamps were paid by the buyers and P570,000 capital gains tax was paid by the seller.

The FFIB said those amounts could only apply to a mere 250 sq meter property, not to the 50,000 sq meter that was actually sold.

Based on the investigators' computations, a transaction involving a property of that size would have earned the government up to P95.8 million in taxes.

The bureau has recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against the officials of the city's Register of Deeds as well as the local tax examiners "for evidently being party to the scam".

In a statement, Gervacio identified the officials as Corazon Chavez of the LP-ROD; Land Registration Authority examiner Delia de la Peña; and revenue officers Maribel Barba, Nimfa Mina, Beatriz Meneses and Ma. Nimfa De Villa. *Volt Contreras*

Violence vs kids alarms int'l rights group

By Agnes E. Donato

A GLOBAL human rights organization has expressed alarm over the rising cases of violence against children, saying it has documented some 3,600 incidents of maltreatment of youngsters over the past six years.

The Geneva-based World Organization Against Torture (OCMT) said the ill treatment and torture of children are "not sporadic or isolated cases."

"Rather they have often proved to be part of a systematic phenomenon, where violence is widespread and violent behavior is the norm within the family, the community and state institutions," the OCMT said in a statement released by Amnesty International-Philippines.

AI described violence against children as all forms of physical and mental abuse, injury, neglect or negligent treatment, sexual abuse, harmful traditional practices, trafficking, exploitation, bullying in schools and corporal punishment committed a person under 18 years of age.

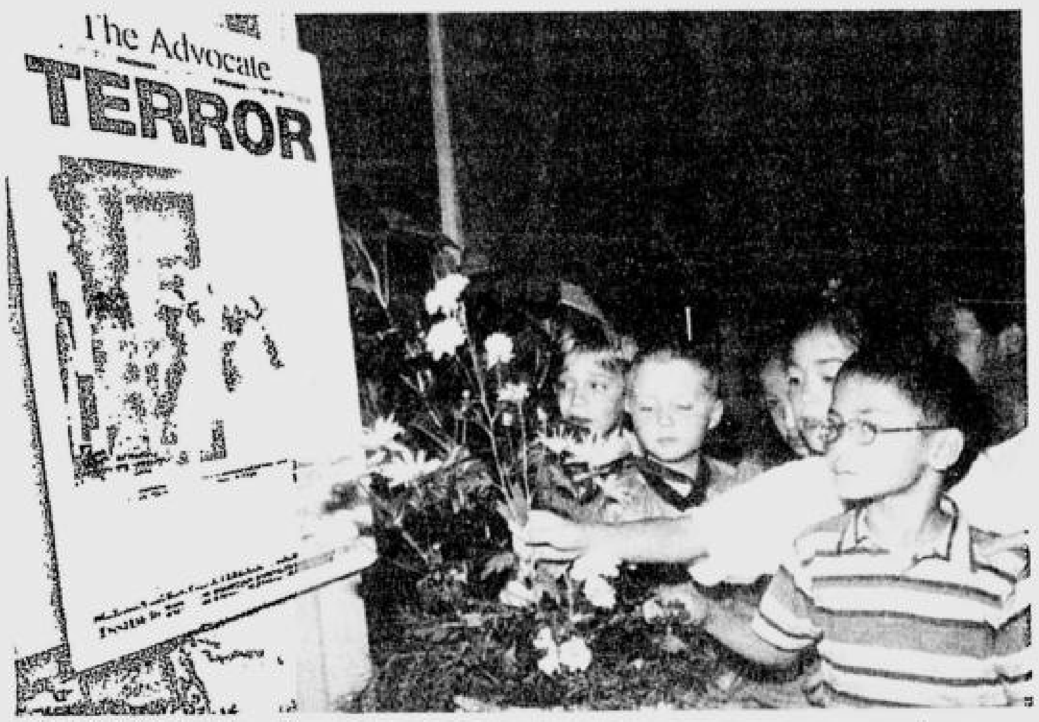
"Violence is perpetrated against children in both private and public settings by parents, caregivers, educators, employers, their peers, armed groups and state officials," the OCMT said.

"In whatever setting, the state has the ultimate responsibility to deter violence and provide effective protection and remedies, including early assistance and support, to children following trauma," the OCMT maintained.

In the recently concluded "International Conference on Children, Torture and Other Violence," 183 participants from 73 countries adopted a declaration and plan of action aimed at eliminating violence against kids.

Among participants' calls were for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Children and for the UN secretary general to appoint a team of experts that would conduct an in-depth study of violence against children.

In the Philippines, Amnesty International, the UP CIDS Program on Psycho-social Trauma and Human Rights and the United Against Torture Coalition expressed support for the declaration adopted by the conference.



YOUNG students of Brent School in Baguio City offer hundreds of blooms to pay tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 attack and for world peace. TOOTS SOBERANO

'9/11 changes': He wanted to crash (plane) into the set!

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Using Lego blocks, the seven-year-old son of American missionaries recently built a miniature New York City inside their quiet home.

One of the towers grew taller and taller until the "skyline" evoked the image of the World Trade Center.

Then he asked his mother for his toy plane. "He wanted to crash it into the set!" Debbie Miller recalled, aghast.

Miller's reaction seems to be an affirmation that many Americans have changed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, which snuffed out 3,000 lives and left the city without its landmark WTC twin towers.

In this northern Philippine city, for instance, expatriates like the Miller family on Friday acknowledged the "9/11 changes" by commemorating peace.

Americans, Germans, and Koreans between five and 17 years old, along with their Filipino schoolmates and friends, offered flowers in memory of the terror attack's victims at the 93-year-old Brent School.

While John Lennon's "Imagine" played, the participants walked towards two long "altars" adorned with front pages of American, Australian, Canadian and Arabic newspapers, that carried pictures of the besieged buildings.

Gil Reoma, director of the Saint Louis University cultural office, coordinated with the US Embassy's cultural affairs office for Friday's program. He said American diplomats had chosen Brent School and Baguio City for the commemorative rites.

Brent was established as an American school in 1909, dedicated to the children of American missionaries based in Baguio. The city is the only one built by the American colonial government in the country.

Subsequently converted into an international school with branches in Manila, Brent now services a multi-cultural population, with Americans representing only 20 percent of the 192 elementary and junior high school students.

Most of Brent's younger American children were veritable September 11 "victims," said Ursula Daoey, school director. Images of the attack repeatedly aired on television or prominently depicted in newspapers, left many of them horrified, she recounted.

Debbie Miller, who helped counsel the children, said the few American families in Baguio never got around to organizing support groups among themselves. "I don't know why," she said. "We never called each other."

Overall, Miller observed, the children at Brent had adjusted more easily than their parents, who had to deal with anger.

Daoey said it took the school only a week to help the children explore the dimensions of the New York attacks. Mostly, she said, the teachers and counselors talked to the children about peace.

Following through, the resounding clamor during Friday's program was "peace with a mission." Its strongest voice came from 16-year-old Enrico Subido, Brent student council president and this year's top Palanca awardee for the Youth Essay.

Quoting his winning essay, "Waging War for Humanity," Subido told the audience:

"I try to forget the images of a man and a woman holding hands while leaping off the upper floors of the World Trade Center twin towers, and the terrified faces of shocked New Yorkers covered in white dust, running for their lives.

"Closer to home, I try to forget the faces of grimy undernourished street children, who knock on my car's windows as we stop for traffic lights in Metro Manila."

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NEWSBRIEFS

De Havilland-7s grounded

AVIATION authorities yesterday ordered the grounding of all De Havilland-7 planes in the Philippines for precautionary inspections of their landing gear following the crash-landing of one such aircraft here late Thursday. "We have grounded all De Havilland-7 type airplanes. We ordered them to check their gear systems," Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said over local radio. An Asian Spirit De Havilland-7 carrying 45 mostly South Korean tourists on a domestic flight crash-landed at Manila airport on Thursday night after its landing gear failed. None of the passengers or the four crewmen were seriously injured. Yap did not say how many planes or carriers were affected by his order. Asian Spirit said the aircraft which crash-landed was the only one of the type in its fleet. *AP*

RP to mark Korean War Day

THE Philippines will commemorate its 3rd Korean War Veterans of the Philippines Memorial Day today with a gathering of old heroes from the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (Peftok). The rites will be held concurrent with the 29th Annual Convention of the Peftok Veterans Association, Inc. (PVAI) at Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. Veterans from each of the five battalion combat teams (BCTs) that comprised Peftok will attend both events. AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya will be the guest of honor while South Korean Defense Attaché Col. Hwang Chill Sang will deliver a special greeting. PVAI Secretary Col. Jovencio Dominguez PA (Ret.) will receive a special award for his effective management of the previous convention. PVAI President Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro PA (Ret.) said the gathering is expected to further strengthen the bonds that bind the country's 3,000 surviving Korean War veterans. "Get togethers like these are always happy and sad occasions for us Korean War veterans," said Castro. "We're happy to be together but sad that there are fewer and fewer of us every year."

Andama Lopez, 59

MILAGROS Andama Lopez passed away last Sept. 3. She was 59. She is survived by husband Dr. Rogelio Lopez; mother Petra Basilides vda de Rivera; son Romil; and stepchildren Myra and Carlito Pablo and son Carl; Rogelio Jr. and Ruvirosa Lopez and sons Geo and Gelo; and Leah. Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal parish church in Project 4, Quezon City. Interment is on Sunday.

5 Filipino sailors rescued off Okinawa

TOKYO—Japan's navy rescued five Filipino seamen unharmed from their disabled, drifting tugboat Friday as typhoon "Sinlaku" caused injuries and battered homes on Japan's Okinawan islands, the coast guard said.

"They had no apparent injuries and were in relatively good spirits," said Okinawan coast guard spokesperson Masayoshi Iramina.

The 78-ton Philippine tugboat Avoir, which went missing Thursday after docking in Nago Bay off Okinawa, was spotted by a Self-Defense Forces aircraft around 2:30 p.m. Friday some 150 kilometers north-northwest of Kume island.

A helicopter was called in and the men were airlifted off their powerless boat in tempestuous seas at 4:38 p.m., Iramina said, adding that by 5:45 p.m., the helicopter had still not returned to Okinawa.

"It may be due to the weather, which is getting worse," he said.

The boat was left to drift and arrangements were being made to have it towed back to safety after the storm had passed.

The Avoir went missing after making a distress call upon developing engine trouble around 3:45 a.m. Thursday, the coast guard said.

It had been sheltering in Nago Bay since Wednesday due to the strong winds on its way from Yokohama to Manila, the coast guard said earlier.

Two coast guard patrol vessels as well as nine aircraft were involved in the search for the vessel.

Packing winds of up to 144 kph, as of 4:00 p.m., the typhoon was around 150 km north-northwest of Miyako island, nearly 2,000 km southwest of Tokyo, according to the Meteorological Agency.

Sinlaku was crawling west towards Taiwan at six kph.

The typhoon was causing waves as high as nine meters in the area, an Okinawa government official said.

The Okinawa government also received reports of 33 minor injuries related to the typhoon, the official said.

Around 105,500 households suffered power cuts, with 129 people evacuating their houses to shelter with relatives or at public offices, he said.

Thirty-four houses and buildings were damaged, including seven that were destroyed, he said. *AFP*

Gov't prepared to evacuate Filipinos in Mideast, says Ople

By Carlito Pablo

OPLE: We're ready

THE GOVERNMENT is prepared to evacuate thousands of Filipinos in the Middle East in case of war in the region.

This was revealed yesterday by Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople amid growing international concern on the supposed plan by the US to attack Iraq.

"We will not be caught flat-footed if there are new emergencies in that part of the world," Ople said in a press briefing in Malacañang. He said the government is reviewing "almost everyday" its evacuation plans.

Ople said that the Department of Foreign Affairs has put in place a contingency plan "in spite of assurances by (US) Ambassador (to Manila Francis) Ricciardone that this is not about to happen."

Ople noted that if US President George Bush and his top officials really intend to launch military action against Iraq, "they will not telegraph their punch to the ambassador in Manila."

"We know the number of Filipinos in each country (in the Middle East)," Ople said. "We know where to put them in terms of a holding area."

In case of a new war between the US and Iraq, Filipinos in Israel and Lebanon will be moved to Cyprus, while those in Iraq and Kuwait will be evacuated to Jordan.

It will not be necessary to move Filipinos out of Saudi Arabia but only to place them "further back" in the kingdom to keep them out of range by Iraq's missiles.

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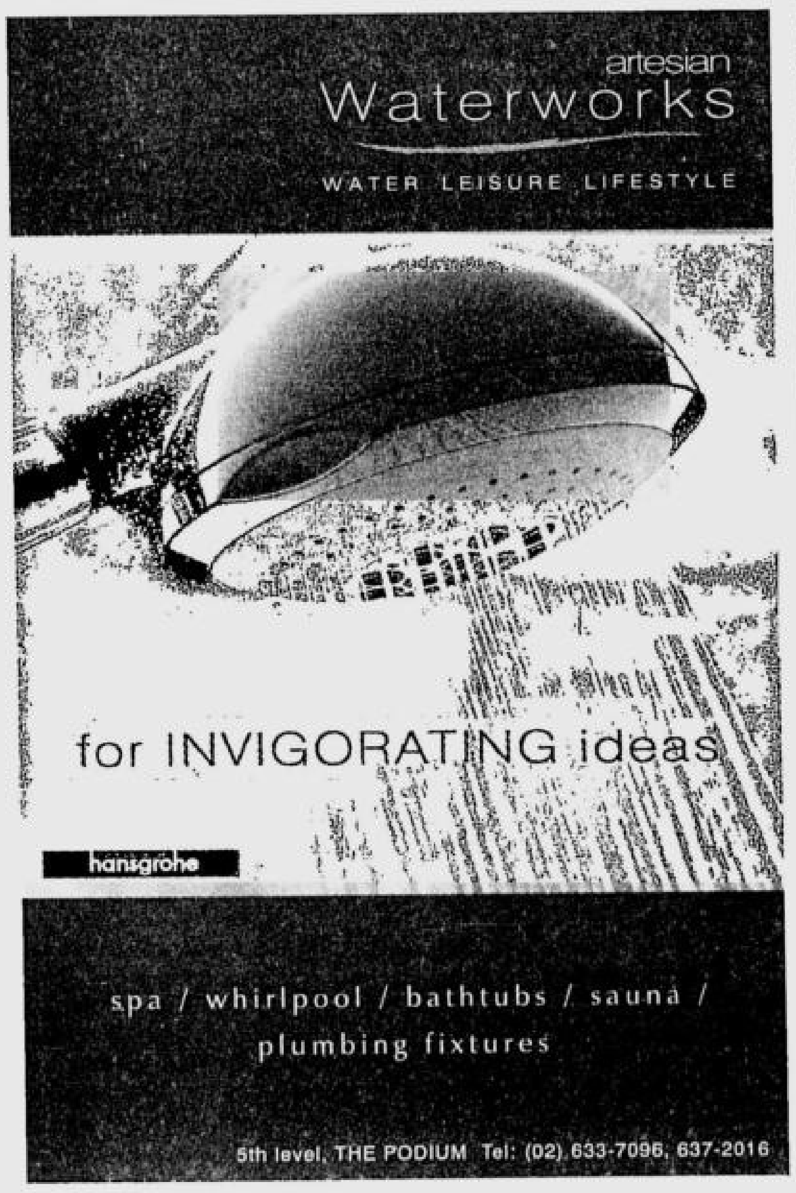

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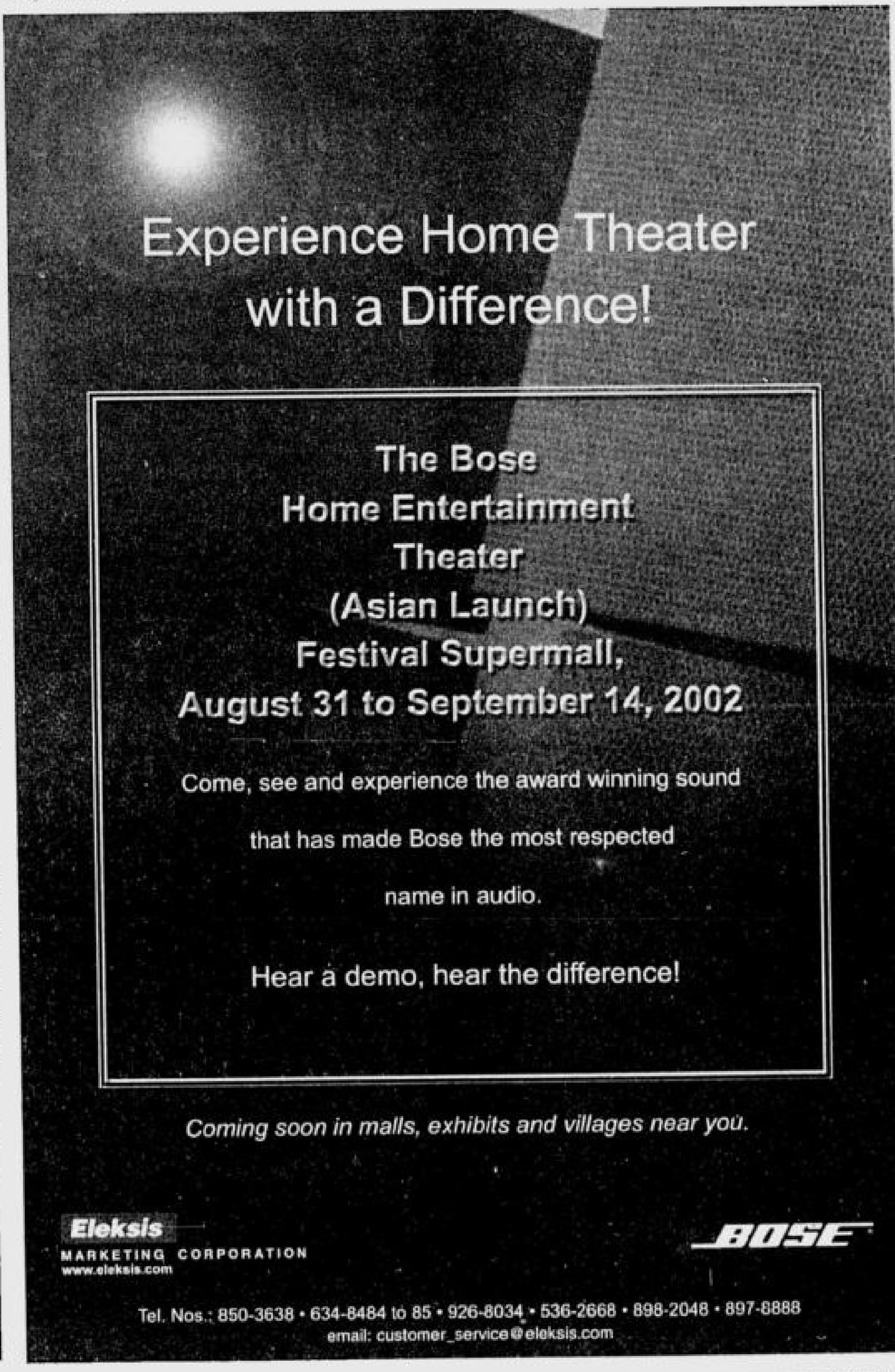

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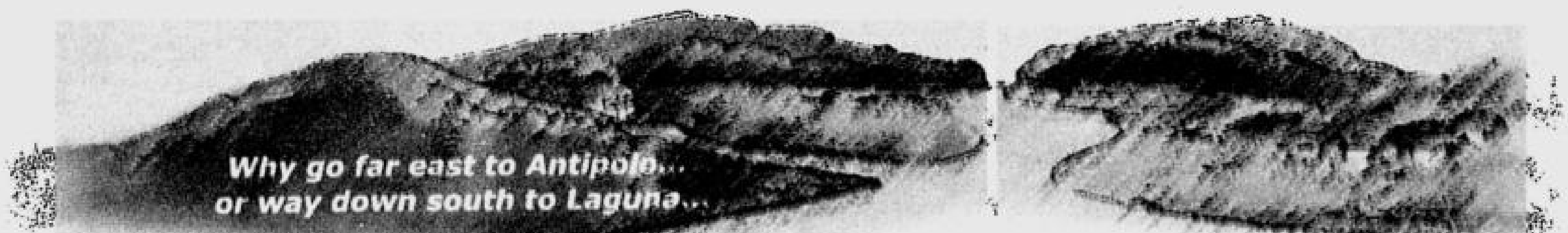

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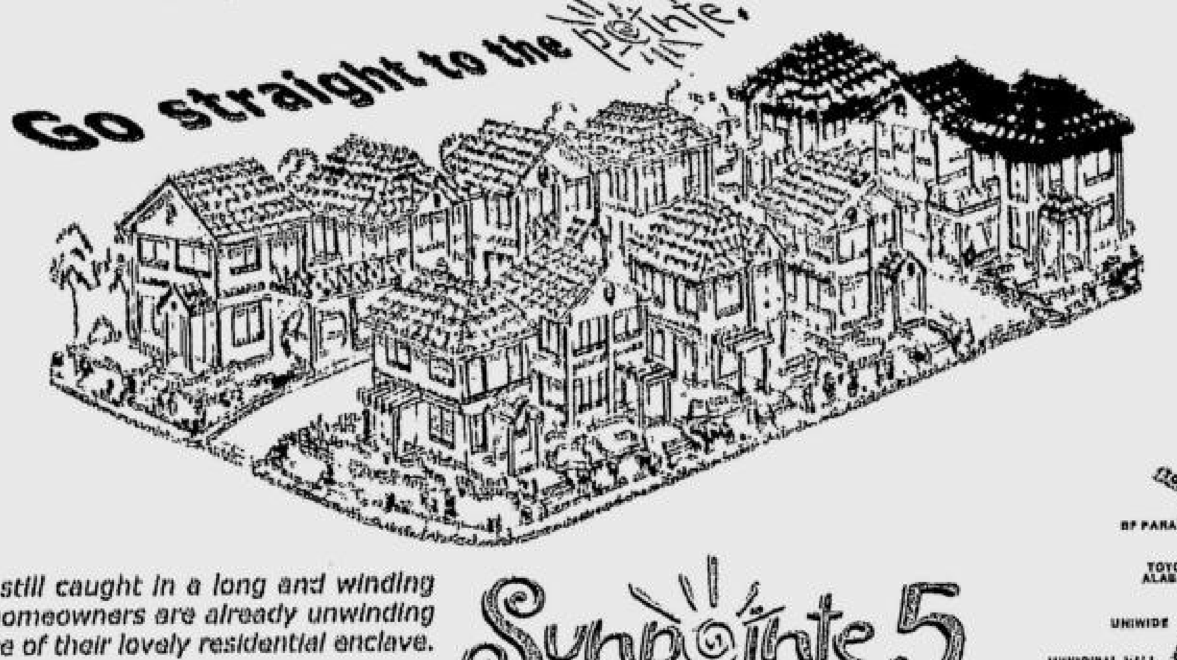

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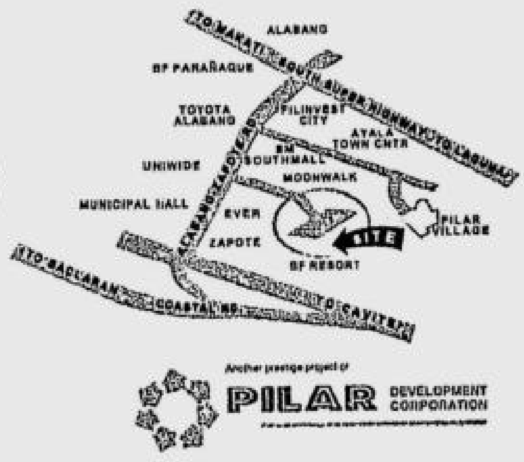

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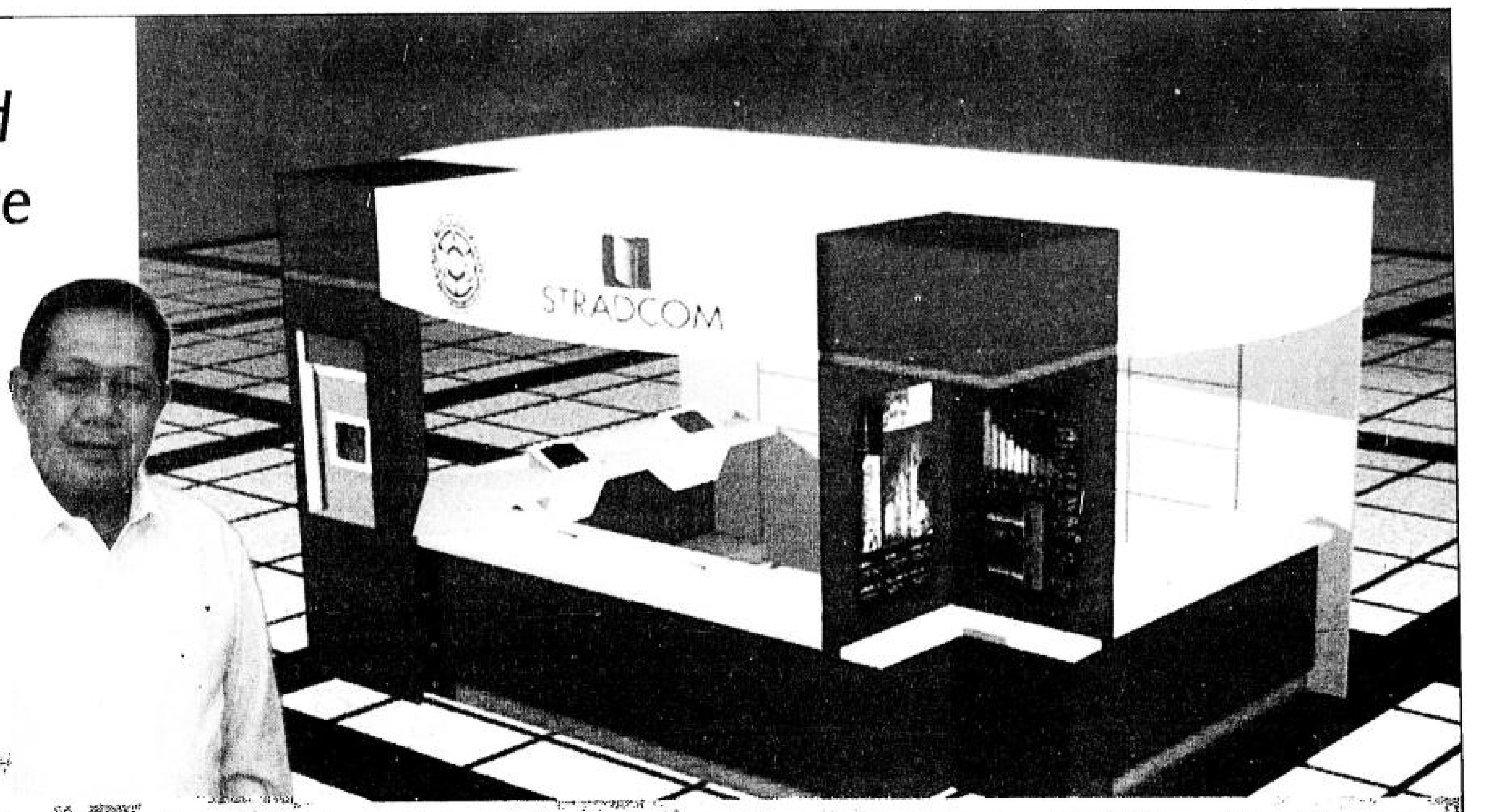

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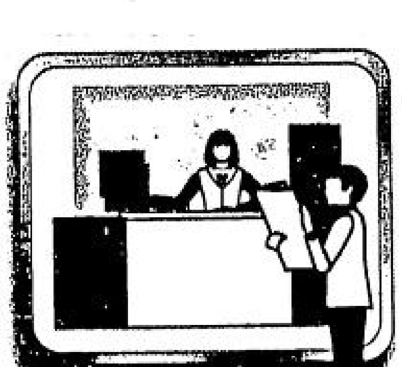

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3. Drug Clearance Certificate (from an LTO accredited drug testing center)
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN)

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4. Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN)

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Ombudsman upholds Rose Bud, files bribery charges vs 11 cops

By Volt Contreras

MARY Ong, the civilian police agent also known as "Rose Bud," has proven to be a credible whistle-blower to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The graft investigation agency yesterday filed criminal charges before the Sandiganbayan against 11 police officers whom she and two other civilian witnesses earlier accused of accepting bribes for the release of suspected Chinese drug dealers in 1998.

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said the respondents were led by Police Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop. Also charged were Supt. Francisco Villaroman, Supt. John Campos, Chief Insp. Julius Cesar Mana, Chief Insp. Dennis Reed Tuvera, Senior Insp. Cesar Aquino, SPO2 Antonio Ventura, SPO2 Mabini Rosale, SPO1 Danilo Castro, PO3 Ferdinand Apuli, and PO1 Anthony Ong.

The respondents were all under the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division of Police Regional Office 4, with Acop as commanding officer, when the alleged bribery transpired.

They were accused of receiving P3 million and 10 kilos of shabu as "payment" for not pursuing the court cases filed against six Chinese drug suspects arrested during an operation on Dec. 6, 1998 at 62-I Maria Clara St., Barangay Lourdes, Quezon City. The cases were eventually dismissed due to the failure of the arresting officers to attend court hearings.

The complaint against Acop before the Ombudsman was initiated by the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headed by Director Nestorio Gualberto.

For witnesses, the CIDG had Ong, Remus Garganera, and lawyer Rodolfo Galing—whose sworn statements were taken by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ong, who took part in the arresting party's surveillance operations prior to the drug bust, claimed to have acted as an intermediary between the respondents and a certain Chong Hiu Ming for the suspects' release.

Garganera claimed to have witnessed the withdrawal by Campos of P3 million from Metrobank's Shaw Boulevard Branch. He said he himself delivered the money to Villaroman, and that it was divided among Villaroman, Campos, and Acop.

He also received the 10 kilos of shabu from Campos, Garganera said, with Tuvera, Rosale, and Castro getting their respective share later.

ONG: Whistle-blower

In finding Acop *et al* liable for bribery, Gervacio "disapproved" an April 23, 2002 resolution of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military, which already "dismissed" the CIDG's original complaints for graft and drug trafficking against them.

Gervacio's decision was based on the recommendation of Ombudsman Prosecutor Paul Elmer Clemente.

Clemente, for his part, had undertaken a review of the dismissal resolution upon instructions from then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Jose de Jesus, spokesperson for the Office of the Ombudsman, said Acop was included in the charge for failing to "prevent the bribe from being consummated, clearly indicating he was part of the conspiracy to unlawfully solicit P3 million from Chong Hiu Ming."

The Ombudsman recommended a P16,000 bail for each respondent.

Acop is said to be currently on leave, while Campos is in a "floating" status. Villaroman is now with the PNP's Human Resources and Doctrine Development division.

Gun licenses of Jaworski son, pals unrevoked

By TJ Burgonio

ALTHOUGH they have been charged with illegal possession of firearms, Ryan Jaworski and his friends have yet to see their gun licenses revoked.

Jaworski, 27, the youngest son of Sen. Robert Jaworski, and his friends, Michael Castro, 27, and Joao Santiago, 26, were arrested last week when police caught them allegedly firing their guns indiscriminately in San Juan late Wednesday. The three are out on bail.

While acknowledging that their crime warranted a revocation of their licenses, Senior Supt. Geary Barias, the chief of the firearms and explosives division, said he could not cancel the licenses of Jaworski and his friends without a request from the San Juan police.

"The fact that they fired their guns in public would merit a revocation of their licenses. But we can't revoke their licenses *motu propio* (on our own initiative). We can only act if there is a request from the apprehending unit," Barias said in a phone interview.

He said his office cannot cancel the youths' permits to own and carry firearms outside their residences on the basis of newspaper accounts of the incident, which he described as "hearsay."

The San Juan police chief, Senior Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, could not be reached for comment.

Police investigators had established that the young Jaworski owned three of the five firearms that were seized—an M-16 rifle and two 9 mm Glock pistols. Castro and Santiago, on the other hand, owned the two other 9 mm Glock pistols.

Each was found to possess a license to own a gun and a permit to carry firearms outside of residence (PTCFOR).

San Juan police arrested the three and two others, Virgilio Endaya, 33, and Rodel Comendador, 27, inside a vacant lot in Greenhills on Wednesday night. They were found to have fired their guns, ostensibly to hunt down rodents.

Police initially filed charges of alarm and scandal against the three. But the prosecutor upgraded the charges to illegal possession of low-powered firearms, invoking the revised law on illegal possession of firearms authored by the young Jaworski's grandfather, Sen. Ramon Revilla.

The prosecutor released Endaya and Comendador for further investigation.

Barias' division has yet to establish how the young Jaworski managed to secure a license and a PTCFOR for a high-powered firearm like the M-16 rifle, claiming it has yet to sift through its computer database.

"Maybe he got those licenses under Executive Order 122," Barias said, referring to the amnesty program for loose firearms during the Ramos administration. He claimed that civilians are allowed to avail of the program.

But an official, who asked not to be named, said that high-powered firearms are issued only to the police, military, private firms and government-owned companies and corporations (GOCCs).

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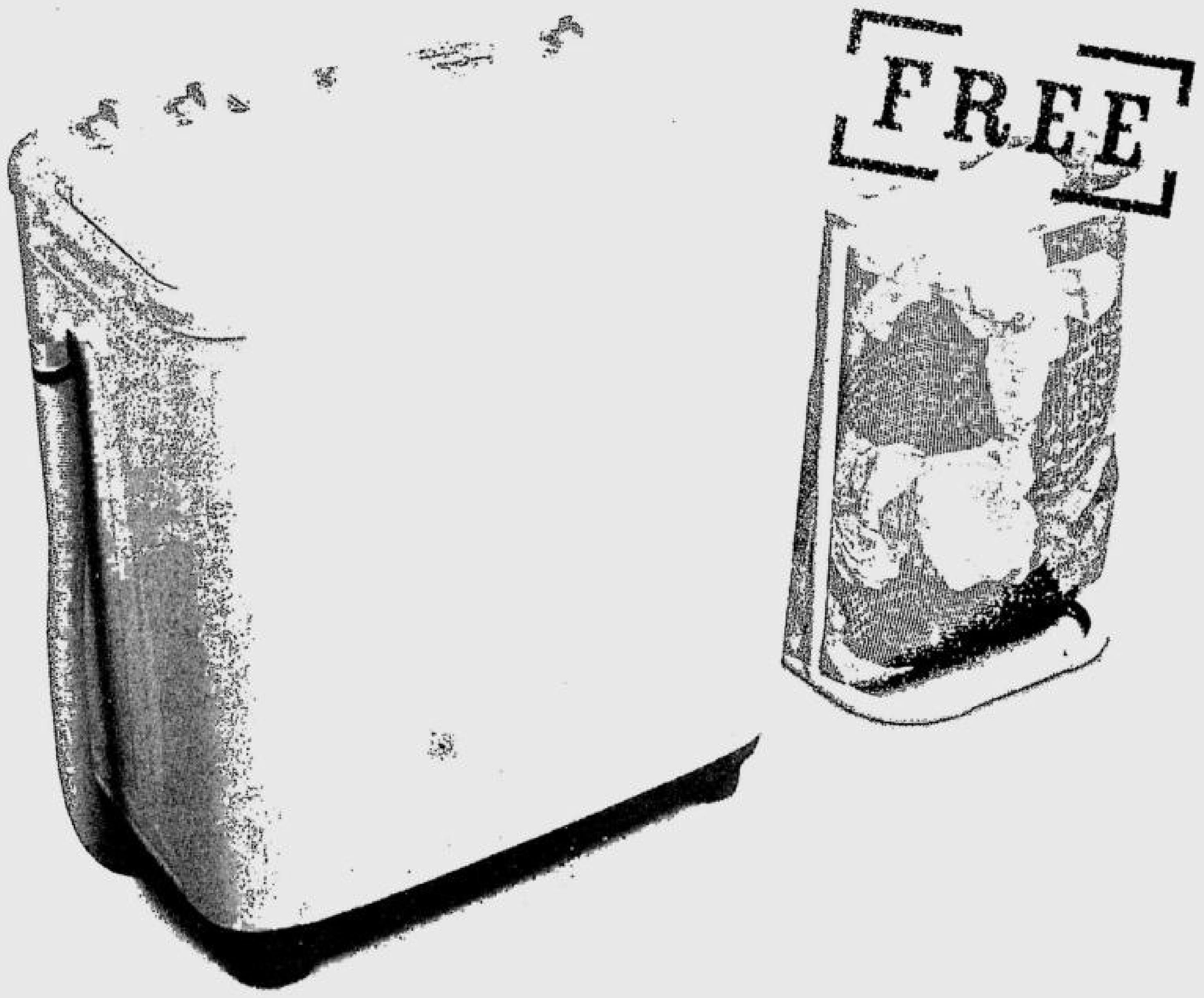

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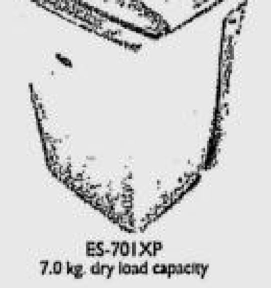
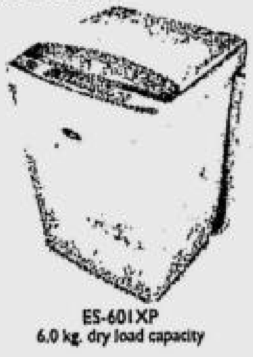
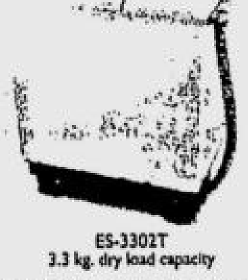

ES-701XP
7.0 kg. dry load capacity


ES-601XP
6.0 kg. dry load capacity

Twin Tub Models

ES-5502T
5.5 kg. dry load capacity

ES-4302T
4.3 kg. dry load capacity


ES-3302T
3.3 kg. dry load capacity

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Asian flame

EDITORIAL

THE RAMON Magsaysay Awards have taken on greater significance as the years go by. The significance owes no doubt to the increasing importance of Asia not only because of its geographical bulk but also because of the geopolitical weight it exerts on world affairs. Anything touched by Asia—anything even remotely connected with Asia—has the touch of fire in it, setting ablaze all that comes into contact with it. Thus, the Magsaysay awardees have become a veritable who's who of Asia and of the world, and even the non-ethnic Asians who have won the award have contributed to the luster of the continent and its nations.

Compared with the Nobel Prize, which is roughly broken down into human endeavors that reflect the award's academic bias (economics, literature, chemistry, physics, etc.), the Magsaysay Awards have a more developmental, humanist bent. Since the awards are liberally given across Asia, cross-cultural interfacing and fertilization takes place. The winners' accomplishments are deemed replicable, but not in a manner that is mere mimickry. The recipients are held up as models, not icons.

The sheen of the model was particularly pronounced this year in the Thai recipient, Cynthia Maung, who was given the Community Leadership Award for providing medical help to refugees along the Thailand-Burma border. In the traditional Magsaysay lecture, Maung urged the young people of the continent to rekindle the fire of volunteerism. The message should not be lost on the young people if only because it came from a credible medium. The medium, after all, is the message.

Of course, many of the honorees are quite advanced in age. But their example holds lessons across the generations.

Sandeep Pandey of India, who won the award for Emergent Leadership, helped found a group that supports education and livelihood projects for the poor, particularly the so-called "dalit" or untouchables. The group, known as Hope, provides just that in India's hopelessly cruel caste system.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who won the award for Government Service, reflects the democratic wave that continues to sweep over Asia. In presiding over the historic impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, the first of a sitting leader in Asia, and in leading the Supreme Court in ruling on the legality of the assumption of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, he showed that democracy must be strengthened and consolidated by judicial activism.

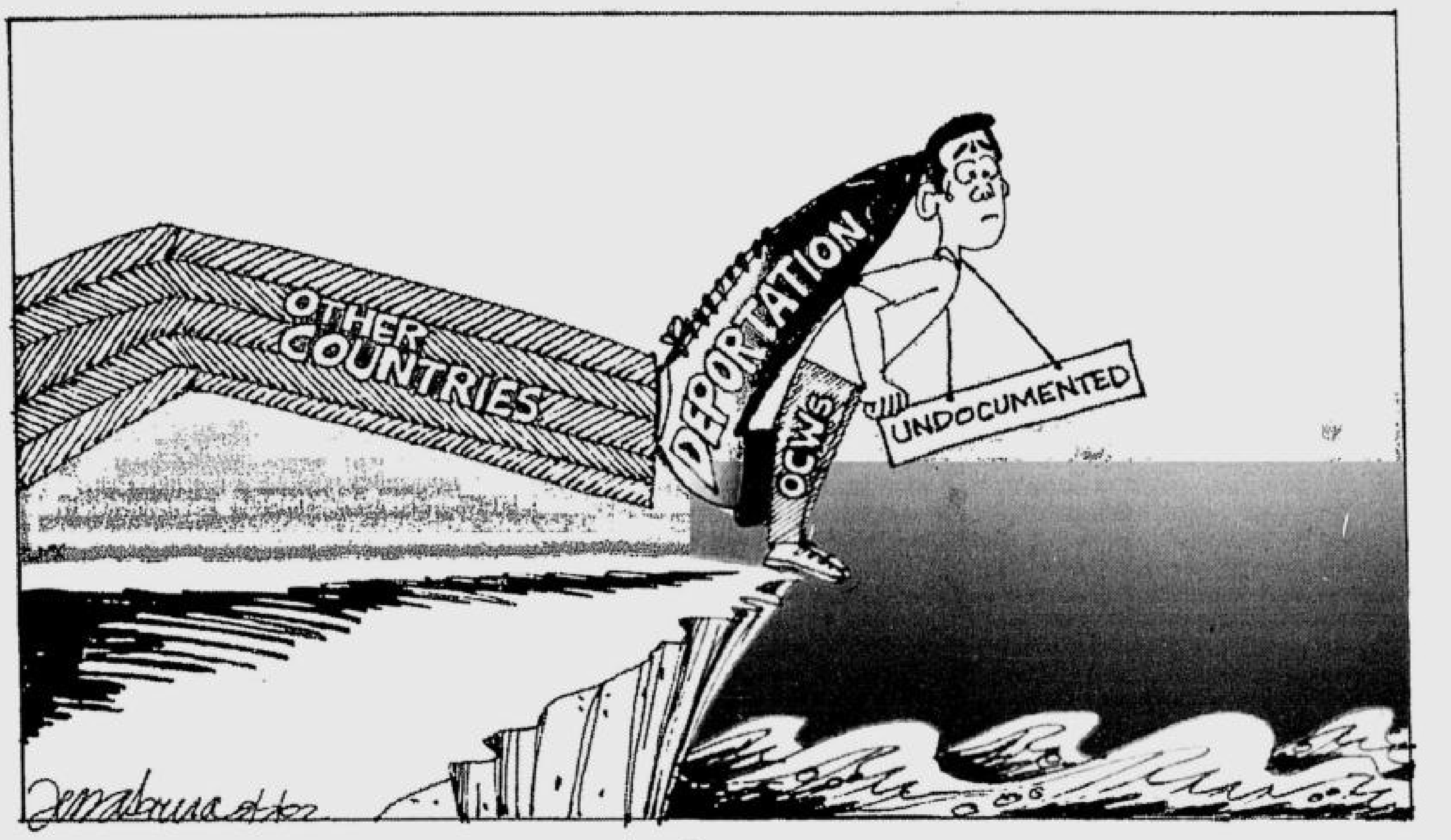
Another democratic figure is journalist Bharat Koirala, founder of the Nepal Press Institute who won the award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication. In promoting creative uses of the mass media, he has shown that democracy and development hinge upon an informed citizenry.

Buddhist monk Sukho Choi of South Korea and Catholic nun Ruth Pfau of Pakistan personify both the great religious tradition of Asia and the culture of humanism and compassion that the tradition has engendered.

Choi, who won the award for Peace and International Understanding, has rallied assistance for the people of North Korea, afflicted by famine that has been largely brought about by Stalinist collectivism. Choi, of course, will be the last person to make a political statement out of his campaign, sticking instead to non-ideological relief and rehabilitation in order to help alleviate the conditions of the people on the other side of the Korean divide.

Dr. Pfau, who received the award for Public Service, has been compared to the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Both are European-born Catholic nuns who elected to become citizens of Asia because of their universal sense of compassion. If Mother Teresa opted during her life to serve the poorest of the poor, Pfau has chosen to devote her life to serve the most cursed of the sick—lepers, the true untouchables, if ever there was one. Her commitment to ministering to those afflicted with Hansen's disease has made her the 21st century reincarnation of Father Damien of Moloka, the beatified Catholic priest who served the lepers of the South Pacific until he himself contracted the disease and died.

Both Choi and Pfau represent the fire of compassion that emanates from two of the great Asian religions—Buddhism and Christianity—whose legacy of humanism and truth continues to mold and remold Asia and the rest of the world. That legacy is also reflected in no small measure by the other recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Award.



Foolish mercy

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE written about this before but I can't help thinking about it again. One of the ironies of our history is the way we have forgiven the people who wrecked our lives and despoiled our future during the Marcos dictatorship. We have not only forgiven but also unctuously *rewarded* some of them out of the foolishness of our hearts.

The present generation may not realize the iniquities of that regime, but those who lived through it cannot forget the brazen opportunism and greed of its cynical leaders. Those scoundrels obviously thought they could ignore and forever escape the people's muted anger over their oppression. The French aristocracy at least recognized the inevitability of the vengeful deluge, but our martial law elite thought it could misrule without end.

Edsa I eventually broke the dam that had long prevented the surge of the people's wrath. Filipinos from all walks of life rose from their placid patience in a common cause against the defilers of their freedom. After their ordeal for more than 13 desperate years, they finally found the courage to join in an angry but peaceful revolution that toppled Marcos from his wobbly throne.

The dictator was flown out of harm's way by the US forces although he wanted to flee to his home grounds in Ilocos Norte where he might have raised loyalist forces to defend him. Among those who rode with the Marcos family to Honolulu were Fabian Ver and Eduardo Cojuangco, who also feared for their lives from the incensed mob. Other Marcos supporters had no choice but to remain and risk—but did not suffer—the vengeance of the people.

The Freedom Constitution called for the eradication of the vestiges of the previous regime, but this turned out to be mere rhetoric. Persons identified with the Marcos dictatorship enjoyed undeserved immunity, and some were even absurdly retained in public office.

Blas F. Ople, who defended Marcos in Washington while Edsa I was raging, served in the Constitutional Commission of 1986, was twice elected to the Senate, and recently assumed office as secretary of foreign affairs. Panfilo Lacson, the notorious Rolando Abadilla's lieutenant, became the top police officer of Joseph Estrada (also a Marcos fan) and is now a senator being touted for President in 2004. Sen. Edgardo Angara, UP president as blessed by Marcos and head of the most powerful law firm then, now leads the opposition with some other steadfast followers of the despot. Even the Supreme Court was infiltrated by prominent loyalists who consistently voted in favor of their disgraced leader.

No effort was taken to secure the return of certain persons alleged to have committed various crimes during that malignant era. Benjamin Romualdez came home recently of his own volition and had a number of criminal cases against him dismissed by the Sandiganbayan. Cojuangco, who had earlier slipped back into the country, might have won the presidential election in 1992 if Imelda had not also run and split the Marcos loyalist votes.

Madame bounced back and became a member of the House of Representatives in 1995; the protest against her for lack of residence was dismissed by the Supreme Court in a dubious decision. In 1998, she was convicted of fraud by the Sandiganbayan in a decision later affirmed by the First Division of the Supreme Court. But this was conveniently reversed by the *banc* that, contrary to its own rules, received the appeal as an exceptional case.

Bongbong Marcos is governor of his province and Imee Marcos is now in Congress, both deriving parochial support from the local followers of their still idolized father. But their sister Irene is a different matter. A recently discovered substantial billion dollar account in her name in a foreign bank is being claimed by the government as plundered wealth secretly deposited by her sire and therefore subject to confiscation. She is laughing at the charge, but not the PCGG.

Even places named in honor of the Marcoses when they were in power have not been renamed to erase memories of their ugly misrule. We still have the Marcos Highway and Imelda Avenue plus other public buildings and parks to remind us of the fallen family. That stone visage of the tyrant still blights the mountains of La Union like an unavoidable obscenity when it should have been blasted long ago after Edsa I. Meanwhile, the Marcoses' P2.3 billion tax deficiency, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1999, has yet to be collected from them.

When Romania ousted Ceausescu and his wife in 1989, the people subjected them to swift justice for their tyranny. After a summary trial, the couple were sentenced to death and executed by musketry. In 1945, Mussolini and his paramour were killed, hanged upside down and spat upon by their irate countrymen. Their villainies were no worse than the injustices we suffered under martial law, but we have been exceptionally tolerant.

This is not to say that Marcos and his cohorts should have been punished like Ceausescu and Mussolini. We are a compassionate people and apply the rule of law even to those who have grievously injured us without compunction or remorse. These unrepentant culprits should not be foolishly forgiven if we are to maintain our self-respect as a betrayed nation. Ignoring their transgressions and even rewarding them for their sins can only make us not a kind but a stupid people.

Too much hanky-panky

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT's fascinating how people (read politicians) can change their tune in mid-song, as it were, with nary a sign of discomfort. Not even a clearing of the throat.

If one recalls, there was this general demand for a review of the contracts with independent power producers (IPPs), several of them Build-Operate-Transfer deals. There was a call for their suspension or at least renegotiation where onerous provisions were found. Some hawks didn't even want to wait for the review—they just wanted to go straight into the suspension and/or renegotiation mode. What was common to all—opposition and administration alike—was their impatience with what they considered as the government's delay in pursuing this action.

Now comes a government report on just such a review and renegotiation of a huge BOT contract, where provisions onerous to the Filipino people were allegedly found. Not only that, the government claims to have come up with an arrangement to buy out the present owners and rebid the contract—at more favorable terms to the Filipino people. Was there congratulations for a job well done, or at least relief that a way had been found out of a bad situation? Not on your life.

Instead, there were accusations of political harassment, assertions that nothing was wrong with the contract, or that the renegotiated terms were tailored for the private advantage of certain people (take your pick from the list: Mike Arroyo, Lucio Tan, the Carpio Villaraza law firm and finally, the chief negotiator and reviewer herself, Gloria Tan-Climaco). And there were dire predictions of reverse privatization and erosion of investor confidence.

But the government report seems to have held up well under the attack, and more importantly, under close scrutiny. The tide seems to be turning (or the tune changing) once again. The congressmen who said that the House committee on transportation and communication had found nothing wrong with the contract are now saying that they may have been misled—although one of them, Rep. Monico Puentevella, claims that the committee never even deliberated on it before a favorable judgment was announced.

The Senate blue ribbon committee is zeroing in on such items as a consulting fee of $2.1 million over six months for a consultant who cannot be located; a company called Strada, incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, which is a shareholder in Piatco; a $23-million expenditure that remains unaccounted for; and a cost over-run ranging from under $100 million to almost $300 million, depending on which estimate given by Piatco one believes.

But as the saying goes, it ain't over until the fat lady sings. And Piatco isn't about to throw in the towel. It seems to have mounted a vast public relations campaign, purportedly under the aegis of the President's publicist Dante Ang.

And it has a trump card in the person of lawyer Eduardo "Dindo" de los Angeles, whose personal reputation is impeccable and who came on board as counsel to Piatco late last year. It would also seem that Liway Chato has joined the stable of Piatco lawyers. It is not sure at this point whether Dindo and Liway will succeed in lifting up Piatco from the mire, or whether they will be dragged down with it.

Not wanting to form an opinion based on second- and third-hand analysis, I have read a chronology of events for the Naia International Passenger Terminal 3 (IPT3) project and gone over various official documents (I have a whole file folder on them) related to it.

The most astonishing piece of information I found is that the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), whose approval is needed for BOT contracts, appeared not to have approved the Piatco deal—only four out of six necessary signatures were obtained—but merely noted it, whatever this means, on April 17, 1997.

Another eye-opener was that the ICC did not even seem to know of a First and Second Supplemental Agreement between Piatco and the DOTC until it was asked to approve the Third Supplemental Agreement—after the fact.

And how about the fact that even though four agencies—the CCPAP, DOF, OP and ICC Secretariat—were of the opinion that the amended concession agreement contained a provision that in effect gave a government guarantee for Piatco liabilities the opinion of the DOTC still held sway?

Finally, I found that the original plan, as agreed upon early in 1995 by the top officials of the DOF, DTI, DOTC, Neda and BCDA, was, among others, for the simultaneous construction of both Naia and Clark International Airport, with the latter to eventually evolve as the premier international airport. Naia or IPT 3 was in fact supposed to be scaled down, with an assured volume of at least 5-7 million passengers per annum. Obviously, this is no longer the case, with at first Clark, and then later on any other airport in Luzon, prohibited from improving its terminal facilities until Naia 3 is handling 10 million passengers a year for at least three years. This means that the development of Northern Luzon will be held in abeyance until anywhere from 2003 to 2007, depending on which forecast is accurate.

The conclusion is inescapable. Too much hanky-panky went on. The deal smells to high heaven. One doubts whether the deodorant, no matter how strong, will work.

For once, rave reviews for RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PIATCO controversy is causing a black eye for the Philippines, sending chills among investors with the way the government is bearing down hard on a Chinese-Filipino family named Cheng, in order to take over the 97-percent finished BOT project, Naia Terminal 3, over the vigorous objections of most of the Piatco shareholders. The case underscores the lack of communication between the government and the private sector, to say the least.

By contrast, as a news report put it, the Philippines got a rave review when its Malampaya natural gas project, developed by the state oil company together with Shell Philippines, was voted as one of the 10 winners of the World Business Summit Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships at the recent World Summit in Johannesburg.

* * *

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who received the award in behalf of the stakeholders, pointed out that more than 120 partnerships in 37 countries were nominated. The winners were picked on the basis of 17 indicators of sustainable development, such as transparency, resource management, relations with customers and public-private partnerships. The award recognized the effective, multi-stakeholder partnerships between the RP government, Shell and NGOs in ensuring that the gas project does not harm the environment and local communities.

Alvarez pointed out in his acceptance speech that "even before the planning was done and the pipelines were laid, there had been consultations with the communities." He said the Malampaya project showcases the important role that Filipino engineers and workers played, and President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to the promotion of "renewable energies and cleaner fuel for homes, motor vehicles and industry."

* * *

Shell's Facundo Roco said that what won the award for Malampaya was "sustainable partnerships." How we wish this could have been the goal of the government in Naia 3. But instead, it approached Piatco, particularly the Cheng family which controls 50 percent of Piatco, like an enemy, or rather, much like the policeman who was out to find something wrong with a taxi.

* * *

We all have seen the high-handed manner Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco has dealt with Piatco. Sitting through two joint committee hearings of the Senate this week, I saw a number of senators join in the vise-tightening on the Chengs, as though they had never seen corporate layering or dummies before. Senate President Franklin Drilon, who rarely appears in committee hearings, attended both hearings and grilled Cheng Yong on his group's investments, demanding to see every receipt of their $27.5 million capitalization. Sen. Serge Osmeña humiliated Cheng with his nasty, uncalled for remarks. He tried to browbeat Cheng into admitting that Piatco would have a "monopoly" on international flights in the Manila airport, but Cheng would only admit to "exclusivity." Of course, the BOT agreement guarantees Piatco a monopoly on those flights, but Cheng was too scared to admit it. Because Cheng and his partner, Henry Go, both senior citizens and ailing, spoke limited English, they were no match to Osmeña or Climaco. At the hearing last Thursday, Drilon objected to Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles' arguing for the Chinoys halfway through his testimony, invoking Senate rules. But toward the end of yesterday's hearing, the senators agreed to let the lawyer answer some of the questions.

* * *

A big debate arose over Neda's approval of the Piatco contract. The Chengs stressed that Neda Director General Dante Canlas had ruled during the confirmation hearings on Pantaleon Alvarez's nomination as transportation secretary that Piatco's contract was aboveboard, although Osmeña recalled that Canlas later admitted that it still had no go-signal from the Neda's investment coordinating committee (ICC). Deputy Secretary General Rafael Lotilla admitted that there was no ICC clearance because the DOTC, one of the six signatories, failed to sign it. Cheng insisted, however, that "Neda approved our contract." And indeed, Neda did so no less than three times since 1997. Now, with the airport nearly finished, along comes the government saying that there is still no ICC clearance. But whose fault is it? The Piatco investors obviously acted on good faith; they had no reason to doubt Neda.

Last Thursday De los Angeles disclosed that Climaco had told him the administration "doesn't like the Chengs" and that the Carpio Villaraza lawyers had documentary proof of their corruption. Climaco has not denied this publicly, though De los Angeles said the Villaraza lawyers denied the part about them. After throwing everything, including the kitchen sink, at Piatco, the administration's dislike for the Chengs is not hard to believe. One thing is sure, the Chinese community is nervous about investing in this clime.

* * *

For those who have missed viewing the roving exhibit on Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, whose 100th birth anniversary is commemorated this year and who will be canonized in Rome on Oct. 6, here's your chance to see it: Sept. 5-8, Pacific Mall Bldg., Legazpi City, Albay; Sept. 10-12, Our Lady of Peñafrancia Museum, Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City; and Sept. 15-30, Riverbanks Mall, Marikina City. The exhibit highlights the life, writings and person of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, whose deep love of God and burning zeal to save souls helped thousands realize that, as he put it, "There is something holy, something divine in your ordinary, everyday life and it is up to you to discover it."

Roads less traveled

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS part of the celebrations of the Maryknoll/Miriam Alumni Homecoming today, plaques of recognition will be handed out to graduates who have been chosen as "Amazing Alumni Achievers" or 3A's.

Begun last year to mark Maryknoll's 75th year in the Philippines, the 3A's were conceived to honor outstanding graduates who, in their careers, vocations, civic involvement, or personal life "contributed to building a society of justice, peace and love."

Among the amazing alumni achievers honored last year were women of such diverse callings as medical doctors, government officials, businesswomen and philanthropists, media personalities, educators, artists, religious and activists. Huge full-color portraits of the "3A's" were displayed, along with brief citations of their achievements. Just sweeping past them, one could not but be amazed at the breadth of commitments Maryknollers/Miriamites have chosen, and yet how each, in her own way, sought to imbue her life and work with "faith in action," the core value of Maryknoll/Miriam education.

This year, the High School Class of 1972, to which I belong, nominated two of our classmates for the "3A's," Anne Marie "Nanan" Jacinto and Cristina "Tina" Pargas Bawagan. I'm proud to say both of them made it through the final screening and so will receive their plaques of recognition this afternoon.

I think it says something, too, about the general quality of our class, dubbed "The Rotten Apples" in our heyday on campus, that our awardees are both educators, "building a society of justice, peace and love" in the classroom and training the next generation of this country's leaders.

* * *

IF you had done a survey, going by looks alone, of our "Rotten Apples" class in our senior year for the student most likely to go to the hills and join the rebels, I very much doubt you would have chosen Tina Pargas.

At that time, she sported thick glasses and long straight hair that was all the rage then, and kept her uniform skirt decorously below the knees. She was also one of the most soft-spoken members of the class, though when you got to talk to her one-on-one, she would often ambush you with her sharp wit and wicked observations.

What most of us didn't know then was that by the time we graduated, Tina had already been joining teach-ins and protests outside the campus. Her exposure to and involvement with urban poor communities as part of the Young Christian Community, she says, served as her introduction to the harsh realities of Philippine society, an awareness sharpened while she was in college in her organizing work among the urban poor in Constitution Hills.

It only seemed natural, then, that upon her graduation with an AB in History from UP, she and her husband Jim decided to live among the peasants, eking out a living on the Sierra Madre range, learning, she says, "how generosity can be manifested by those who possess almost nothing."

Poor health made her decide to come down from the mountains and move back to the city, but two years later, she and Jim took up an assignment in Central Luzon. There she was arrested in May 1981, after which she was tortured and abused by the military. In December that year, Tina learned that Jim had been killed.

* * *

IN THE YEARS since, Tina has remarried and begun a family, her sense of commitment and mission rechanneled to the field of education. She has been teaching history and the humanities at the Philippine Science High School since 1986, where, as an "outstanding teacher" for many years, she no doubt enriches her students' book learning with life lessons.

To the question of why our class chose to nominate Tina, we replied: "Our teachers, but especially the Maryknoll Sisters, drummed into us that our privileged education and status in life was not for personal or professional satisfaction alone, but for the betterment of society and the uplift of the less privileged. These lessons Tina sought not just to champion or propagate, but to live out, day-to-day, among the urban poor and the peasants, at home and in the classroom where she now carries out her mission."

* * *

IF the path Tina's life took was unexpected, so, too was Nanan's choice, though for an entirely different reason. A natural leader, most of us probably expected Nanan to excel in whatever field she chose and project herself to prominence.

Instead, she chose to be an educator, and in quite an unusual field. As corporate director of Punlaan School, Nanan is responsible for the continued operations of this institution that offers a two-year Diploma Scholarship Program in Food and Beverage Services for underprivileged young women. Through a unique dual scholarship program which offers one-year classroom training and one-year on-the-job training with a prestigious hotel or restaurant, Punlaan offers its graduates excellent chances of finding employment in the hotel and restaurant industry. At the same time, Punlaan grounds its students in values and work attitudes to help them survive their new work environments.

Nanan says she sees her work with Punlaan as not just providing employment for young women who might otherwise be lured into exploitative and degrading forms of work, but also as a chance "to restore their self-dignity as well as guide them spiritually and morally to live as upright Christian women."

Tina and Nanan are indeed women who have taken "the road less traveled," but who is to say if they had not also hit upon the more scenic and rewarding route?

Filipinos in Vietnam (1)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE OLDER generation of Filipinos may still remember that a contingent of military men was sent to South Vietnam in 1965 to do "engineering work." But members of the Philippine Civic Action Group (Philcag) were not the first Filipino troops to go there. In 1858 France convinced Spain to send an expeditionary force to join in the French campaign in Vietnam, or Annam as it was called then. To this end, volunteers were recruited.

[A short historical sketch follows for those who weren't required to study history in any depth whatsoever, for those who have forgotten and for those for whom the lesson didn't register: The area of Asia between India to the west and China to the east was called French Indochina or the Indochinese Peninsula in the second half of the 19th century and much of the 20th. Indochina consisted of Tonkin in the north (with Hanoi as its capital), Annam in the middle (Hue) and Cochinchina in the south (Saigon). These three regions were at the turn of the century under the nominal rule of the emperor of Annam. Before the end of the 19th century, the French also annexed Cambodia and Laos.]

At the time France moved to take Tourane (now Da-Nang) and Spain was induced to form a joint military expedition to Cochinchina, they were supposedly avenging the deaths of two Dominican missionaries, Bishop Jose Maria Diaz Sanjurjo and Bishop Melchor Sampedro, who might have forgotten what happened to the missionaries the order sent to Japan two centuries earlier. From the Philippines, Gov. Fernando Norzagaray sent an expeditionary force of 1,500 men under the command of Rear Adm. Rignault de Genouilly, the French commander in chief.

On Aug. 20, 1858 the first battalion of 400 Filipinos left under the command of Col. Mariano de Oscariz. The French consul in Manila recruited 900 more for the French navy and all the men needed to form an infantry company and a cavalry squadron. Most were Tagalogs and they made up a third of the whole French force.

They sailed from Yu-li-kan on Aug. 30 and arrived the next day at Tourane. After half an hour of bombardment that completely destroyed the harbor defenses, they landed. Before nightfall, the port of Tourane was a French possession.

But soon the weather and tropical disease got the better of the Europeans and only the Filipinos were left to carry out the work of rebuilding the fortifications. The Vietnamese, who had fled to Hue where the invaders dared not follow, soon heard of their sorry plight and continuously harassed them for the next five months.

Unable to follow the Vietnamese to Hue, the French decided to go instead to Saigon, the rice granary. Among the forces that assaulted the city were 300 men in the Spanish contingent led by Maj. Carlos Palanca Gutierrez, who was Tan Quien-sien's sponsor at baptism. (Hence the name Carlos Palanca Tan Quien-Sen). Two-thirds of that number were "Tagals," as the French called the Filipinos. Among them were Doroteo de Guzman and Pioquinto Graba. De Guzman was the first to enter the fort of Vinh Long and he snatched two flags from the enemy and killed the standard bearers.

Trouble arose from the fact that the Spanish were disgusted that they had to work under a French commander "who never forgot his rank" and claimed all the glory (naturally—it was after all a French enterprise). Furthermore they had been sent without supplies of their own and had to rely on the French who apparently were not too generous. Four surviving officers had to sacrifice their own savings and when their supplies gave out, they received no answers to their requests from the governor general.

To add insult to injury, they had to borrow money from the French to feed the soldiers. Finally when their account reached P7,000, a remittance of P10,000 arrived.

Only four officers and 233 men returned home the following year. Some Filipinos opted to stay behind when the campaign was over and married Annamese women.

In 1907 Mariano Ponce commented that there were veterans from that campaign who were living in Vietnam with their families but who still could not speak Vietnamese but "instead made Tagalog the family tongue. However, they all speak French."

Historian Jose Montero y Vidal thought the government had an unfortunate lack of foresight, laying bare the ineptitude of its leaders and diplomats since they got nothing from the Indochinese adventure. There was no previous agreement setting down conditions under which Spain would spend her own resources and fight in Cochinchina. The Spaniards, he wrote, set off to avenge the blood of some missionaries "who had no business being in Annam in the first place."

A hundred years later, the Philippines sent a contingent, yielding to pressure from the United States, according to an editorial of the Manila Chronicle in 1967. At this point nobody knew what the Americans, like those two Dominicans a century before them, were doing there. (Their involvement caused the US government a multitude of problems, unremitting protests from its own people and no doubt ceaseless regret.) "Could the Philippine participation deodorize and transform the purely American war in Vietnam into an international and holy crusade against evil?" the Manila Chronicle asked.

(Data from Dr. Domingo Abella's "The Philippine Historical Review," 1966 and Eulogio B. Rodriguez's "Outline of Philippine History.")

Doctors and priests

YOUNG BLOOD

Alfonso P. Suico Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THERE'S a new batch of doctors who have taken the oath to be servants of the sick and friends of the infirm. For most of them, becoming a full-fledged doctor is a dream come true. Some will go on to pursue advanced specialties, while others will take other options. I would have been one of them had I not chosen another life.

When I was interviewed after applying to medical school, I was asked why I wanted to become a doctor. Like most applicants, my answer was: "To serve my countrymen."

It was a noble purpose, but as we went along that resolve faded into the background. I myself, through constant discernment, discovered that I had another calling. It was still a life of service, but it involved following Christ as a priest or brother.

In medical school, we went through a lot of hard work, long hours of study and many sleepless nights, morbid patients, medical missions, endorsements, etc. We met different kinds of people: a child who refused to have his throat examined, a mother who was anxious about the condition of her baby, a few grumpy men, among others. Our patience and perseverance were tested but the interaction was between a doctor and his patient.

It was a bitter-sweet life, but my restlessness was overwhelming. So in my clerkship year (fourth year), I left to begin a life to which I felt I was called.

That was over two years ago and I am happy with my choice. The transition wasn't an easy one. Friends, classmates and some doctors tried to dissuade me from pursuing my vocation. Some said I must be nuts to do it. Others were simply cynical. But I had the full support of my family, which made me feel a lot better.

The first two years of formation were a time of getting involved with many people in different places. In some brief "exposures," I was with the lumad community in the mountains of Davao, sugarcane workers of Negros and the poor and needy in the urban areas, helping in the missions and the parishes. I learned how to deal with people in a personal way.

Now as a novice, most of my time is spent strengthening my relationship with God, reflecting and discerning how genuinine is my vocation—and getting enough sleep.

Even during my formation, I experienced difficulties but these became instruments of growth and healing. At a time when scandal is rocking the Church, I reflect on my own failures and try to discover how God makes use of these imperfections to effect conversion and bring His love to all. Here at last I have found my rest.

And yet when I think of the new doctors who have reached the goal I once shared with them, I can't help but feel a little wistful. I shared their struggles, I knew their pains and their joys. But since I have taken a different path, all I can share with them is the hope that they will become doctors who have compassion for others.

I pray that these new doctors will see the person in every patient, a person needing their professional help, yet also needing understanding and compassion. May they recognize that service means going beyond themselves and embracing others as well. May they defend and uphold life from its conception. May service come first before gain or prestige. May they not be contented with curing the disease but proceed to heal the person as well. May they be true to the oath they have taken.

I have seen the suffering of the poor. I have listened to their woes and miseries. I hope these new doctors will take a radical step to respond to the cries of the countless suffering men, women and children.

As religious, we are called to serve. As doctors, they are called to serve. Whatever profession or vocation we may have, we are all called to serve others with love and compassion. To bring to perfection our human frailties so that we can move forward in our journey to the kingdom of God.

Alfonso P. Suico Jr., 26, is a novice of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists).

Focus on Judas

Michael Israel T. Ortega

"WHY do you only see Judas? What about the 11 other apostles who remained faithful to the Savior?"

This was the question a priest posed to hundreds of church-goers several weeks ago. In his homily, the priest discussed the cases of sexual misconduct involving American and Filipino priests. But he defended the dignity of the priesthood and urged the people not to focus on the priests who were unfaithful to their vows and stained the image of the Church. He reminded them that the majority of priests remained faithful and committed to their priestly ministry.

I agree with everything he said. True, many Catholic priests who were accused of sexual misconduct had brought down shame upon the Church. Some molested children who attended Sunday Masses. Others touched very young altar boys and bought their silence with huge sums of money. These abuses really made me mad and ashamed. To me, those priests were worse than Judas. They deserved a fate worse than being left to rot in jail for disgracing the priesthood and the Church.

That is why I could not blame people who condemned priests. But then again what about the many good priests who have remained faithful to their vows? What about the priests who truly deserve to be called Christ's representatives on earth?

There are priests who lay their hands on the sick and heal them in the name of Jesus. Don't they deserve our respect and gratitude? What about those priests who are able to organize big Catholic charismatic communities and animate their flock when they celebrate Mass? They certainly deserve praise for bringing the Gospel to so many people so effectively. And what about the parish priest in Quezon City who bravely stood by his urban poor parishioners to stop the demolition of their homes? These and many other good priests are the 11 apostles of our times. They truly deserve our praise, and they truly deserve to be called Christ's disciples.

When we focus too much on erring priests, we are likely to overlook the good ones. True, the "wolves in sheep's clothing" catch our attention with their misconduct. They can even make us lose our faith in the priesthood. But why don't we also look at the good priests who work selflessly to bring the Kingdom of God to our lives by their words and deeds? These good priests imitate Jesus Christ, and in so doing they let us see Christ through them.

Let us continue supporting and praying for priests who do their very best to live the life and the way of Christ.

Michael Israel T. Ortega, 25, is a seminarian at La Salette Novitiate.

Three bills to accelerate recovery

BY PUSHING for the enactment of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) bill in her State of the Nation Address, President Macapagal-Arroyo indicated that this bill is a cornerstone of her administration's efforts to accelerate economic recovery.

However, it must be pointed out that SPAV is not enough. The law is not designed to work in a vacuum. It should be passed together with its two "sister bills": the Corporate Recovery and Insolvency Act (CRIA) and the Securitization Law.

The SPAV bill will help revitalize the banking sector by facilitating the emergence of "asset management companies" to purchase non-performing loans (NPLs) from banks. To really get the process going, however, lawmakers need to give those who would establish asset management companies a way to get their capital back, i.e., an "exit strategy." Securitization provides the needed exit strategy: the promoters can sell "asset-backed securities," backed by the NPLs, to investors and recover their capital plus profit. Ideally, they would then plow back this capital and buying more NPLs in a kind of virtuous cycle.

And just as the SPAV needs to be complemented by the Securitization bill, both need the CRIA so that they would accomplish their objectives. In the case of SPAV, if the insolvency regime is not functioning properly, the price asset management companies will pay for the NPLs will be very low because in many cases, the borrowers are or soon will be insolvent. That's why the loans are "non-performing" in the first place.

The Securitization bill is also tied closely to the CRIA bill. The whole idea of securitization is that if a company sells certain assets to a "special purpose vehicle (SPV)" and the SPV then issues "asset-backed securities" (rather than having the company itself simply issue garden-variety bonds), the cost of capital to the company can be reduced because the transferred assets become "bankruptcy remote," that is, if the original company becomes insolvent, the company's creditors cannot reach the assets that were sold to the SPV. The beauty of an SPV is that it cannot go bankrupt; its only creditors are the holders of the asset-backed securities. Clearly this whole arrangement depends critically on the insolvency law. Investors will not invest in asset-backed securities unless they can be sure that the SPV and its assets are "bankruptcy remote." Until the CRIA is passed, they will have no way of knowing for sure.

If Congress needs another reason to finalize and pass the CRIA, it is that bankruptcy proceedings are presently governed by a cacophony of archaic and oftentimes inconsistent laws, rules and procedures. The result is uncertainty and delay, both of which are detrimental to the nation's economic recovery efforts.

We urge both chambers of Congress to enact quickly the CRIA, together with the SPAV and Securitization bills. These three interrelated laws can help accelerate economic recovery.

—SHELAH MAE W. FAMADOR,
2013 Strata 100, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Aid for fire victims well managed

WE would like to clarify some points in the news report, titled "Fire victims, injustice victims," last Aug. 18.

Bishop Ric Barcelona, chair of the Christian Movement for Justice and Righteousness, was quoted as saying that "the disbursement of donations from the Philippine Christian Evangelical Churches (PCEC).... is so disorganized that not all the funds are reaching the victims and their families." The repot went on to say, "He blamed this on the refusal of the PCEC to course the funds through his group."

Bishop Barcelona has furnished the PCEC with a copy of his letter dated Aug. 20, 2002 addressed to the INQUIRER's editor in chief clarifying his first statement. This time, he said: "I was not blaming and saying that PCEC was so disorganized. What I was referring to was that there are a lot of individuals and NGOs and organizations who solicited funds (and) the donations do not reach the victims and its families."

The PCEC confirms that it indeed refused, repeatedly in fact, to course the funds through his group for the following reasons:

A. It was the wish of the donors. The donors conveyed their wish that the management and disbursement of the funds will be at the exclusive disposition of the PCEC. To date, this valuable trust and responsibility given to us, have been faithfully obeyed and consistently discharged. Under such a covenant, our board of trustees could not do otherwise.

B. To avoid any conflict of interest. Prudence and transparency dictate that no conflict of interest should result from the handling of the funds intended for exemplary, noble and humanitarian purposes. The PCEC will not allow itself to be dragged into any form of partisan squabbling, iniquitous allocations or misuse of funds, should these be placed in the wrong hands.

We have administered the funds with utmost care and prudence, observing at all times our existing financial policies and internal control systems. In fact, the funds are regularly audited by our external auditors.

To set the record straight, and contrary to Bishop Barcelona's misleading assertions, 75 individuals have received funeral assistance, 69 victims have received medical assistance and 48 orphans have benefited from the living and educational assistance, out of the donations given out so far by the PCEC.

—BISHOP EFRAIM M. TENDERO,
national director,
Philippine Council of Evangelical
Churches, 62 Molave St.,
Project 3, 1102 Quezon City

Hazards on GenSan-Koronadal highway

AS a resident of General Santos City working in Koronadal City, I fear for my life every time I use the highway connecting these two cities of Southern Mindanao. I fear for my life because the contractors of the ongoing maintenance repairs do not provide adequate warning devices especially at night. All they have put up are sign boards that can hardly be seen at night and used cement bags filled with earth materials which they line up between the side being repaired and the passable side.

I wonder why DPWH officials allow this. Several accidents have already happened because of this, and one driver has already been killed.

After that fatal accident, improvised lamps emitting black smoke were put on the highway as a warning device. Not only did this obstruct the commuters' vision, it also posed a threat to our health. Eventually, this was stopped.

I hope that the DPWH will force these contractors to put up adequate warning devices which are also not a threat to the health of commuters. I am very sure that this is part of the obligations of the contractors.

Another thing that a commuter has to contend with is the proliferation of tricycles (I thought they were not allowed on highways). Also many vehicles, mostly trucks and motorcycles, using the highway at night do not have proper lights.

These road hazards should be taken off our highways. We have members of the highway patrol manning the highway but it seems they are only interested in checking the travel permits of forwarders rather than stopping the blatant violations of rules.

I hope the DPWH and the LTO will give their people here in GenSan, Koronadal and the whole South Cotabato region a wake-up call.

—MANUEL D. ROMERO, VS
Homes, General Santos City

Prayer for peace on Mary's birthday

ON MARY'S birthday, candles and prayers for peace.

"He has shown might with his arm.

He has confused the proud in their conceit.

He has deposed the mighty from their thrones

and raised the lowly to high places.

To the hungry He has given every good thing,

while the rich He has sent empty away." (Luke 1:52-53)

On Sunday, Sept. 8, on the Blessed Mother's birthday, she wishes us not only to pray for peace but to work for peace and better to be at peace in this world of war and death. Mary's words from the Magnificat invites us anew to look to the God of life and peace and to dismantle our idols of greed and death. We are God's children. Whether Christian, Muslim or Jew, American, Afghan, Taliban, Filipino or Malaysian, we all come from the same humanity called to share, to protect and preserve the same world. Mary's Magnificat is a clamor for justice as much as it is a plea for peace. It is an affirmation of hope amid the spreading gloom of despair in a world dominated by war.

Three years ago we pushed "Kariton ni Maria, Kariton ng Mahirap" to pray and beg for the fire of truth and the bread of justice. As we suffered the lies and hypocrisy of a corrupt presidency, it was vital to once more say and even shout the truth. This, Mary did as she sang, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..." The poor accustomed to suffering, suffered even more under a corrupt government that unconscionably cashed in on their weakness for *jueteng*.

As those who are intoxicated with their wealth and power continue to oppress and exploit the poor, Mary continues to sing her confidence in God's justice: "To the hungry He has given every good thing, while the rich He has sent empty away."

We continue to hear Mary's song now us she sang it then. Its power and relevance continue to reverberate in a society of ambitious minds and hardened hearts.

This Sunday, Kariton ni Maria will once more carry Mary's statue and announce God's word through Mary, God's lowly servant. At 4.30 p.m., we will walk and pray with Mary from the Edsa Shrine to Camp Aguinaldo where we will light 2,002 candles as we sing and pray for the end of war and the beginning of true and lasting peace on earth and in the hearts and minds of everyone.

Join us in prayer and procession, or wherever you are say a prayer and light a candle for peace at 6 p.m. on Mary's birthday.

We pray thee, Mother Mary, give peace to our land!

—FR. ROBERTO P. REYES,
Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice,
Diliman, Quezon City

Funds for housing not enough

WE wish to react to the commentary of Anna Marie Karaos, which was published last Aug. 25

We thank her for her kind words about the good performance of housing during the first one and a half years of the Macapagal administration. We appreciate the fact that she cited the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) as a "scheme that has worked well with the urban poor."

As administrator of the CMP, we at the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. share Karaos' concern over the drastic cut in the CMP's 2003 budget. This concern was also raised during the second en banc meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission last Aug. 22 in Malacañang presided by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As of this writing, the total net fund available for the CMP is P361 million. With all the CMP projects already approved for payment and with the purchase commitment lines, we project a shortfall of about P500 million.

—ANGELICO T. SALUD, president,
National Home Mortgage Finance
Corp., Filomena Bldg. III,
104 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS SPEARHEADS TREE-PLANTING IN OBSERVANCE OF ITS 66TH FOUNDATION DAY

Celebration focuses on restoring ecology of watersheds and establishment of proper environmental element for wildlife through graduated reforestation

FOUNDATION DAY OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

By Jesus G. Lizardo, M.D., FPCS

Sixty six years ago, on September 12, 1936, 35 distinguished practicing surgeons assembled in the Hospital de San Juan de Dios in Intramuros, Manila, headed by Dr. Gregorio T. Singian to found the Philippine College of Surgeons. Being a respected "master of the scalpel," Dr. Singian had the obsessive aspiration of elevating the scale of surgical practice in the country, first by choosing members to the College through scrupulous screening, second by zealously promoting the best perspectives of continuous medical education, and third by keeping sacrosanct the ethical practice of surgery. He further steered the sapling coterie to greatness by selecting members dedicated to render voluntary service especially in the healing of underprivileged patients. At the height of his endeavors he suddenly fell ill and died while he was in Hongkong. But he had already expediently motivated surgeons to continue with the task he left behind, and so the Philippine College of Surgeons endured and kept going in pursuit for those elusive surgical puzzles that sustain mankind from ill-health, and for more preferential ways of endowing constant professional update to its members.

As many as 51 presidents have stood at the head of the organization and led the PCS in its development, seasoning, and placement as the most stable and sturdily mature aggregate of cutting specialists in the Asian crescent. Each president had given his supreme and optimum commitment to produce what now is benefiting the Fellows by giving new vigor and dynamic impact as well as racial prestige to our country at large.

The PCS is not a school or a workshop. It is a trust of the cream of Filipino surgeons enrolled together by their cohesive dream of giving the country the best of surgical knowledge and care, and of the determination to lead and not to be left behind in their particular fields of surgical specialization. It is an organization that was founded to awaken the fertile minds of surgeons so that they could discover the colossal channels through which knowledge could flow from one mentality into another within Fellows of their own kind.

Through the years, many policies and innovations have been instated such as the publication of the Philippine Journal of Surgical Specialties, the PCS Newsletter for communal information and announcements, several brochures, pamphlets, and program guides. Committees have been formed to further reinforce smooth coordination in the management of growing associational concerns. Some of the committees that are considered pressing are the Committee on Conventions, Committee on Surgical Training, Committee on Surgical Education, Committee on Accreditation, and Committee on By-Laws and Amendments. Many other committees have subsequently been established which are all chaired by reputable Fellows.

It has caught the ear of the PCS that glib critics of 'wrongdoings" of practicing physicians have been tossing out uncalled for slants on malpractice, and drumming up public disapproval over medical services they label as faulty, putting the profession into plunging levels and ratings by publicity and yellow broadcasting. They should not be listened to or believed implicitly. It is a pity that many of media people, especially in the visual and broadcast segment, do not really comprehend, for example, the very exacting training of particularly a surgeon, and to injudiciously and treacherously exclaim that in the event of a lapse in his service delivery or treatment, he must be given a very harsh punishment, which is death. This is indeed a loquacious statement that is not expected to originate from mature, respectable parties.

PCS Fellows, relatives, and friends being taught how to plant tree seedlings by Eng. Val Mendoza of La Mesa Dam.

The men accepted as fellows in the PCS, it must be restated, are surgeons thoroughly and conscientiously schooled and trained in their respective specialties to treat and manage patients in the best possible way, so that both science and art of performance are administered at the highest notch and scale of proficiency. Nevertheless, medicine and surgery in reality, have strange, ambiguous perplexities and eversince olden times have never been looked upon as an exact science. Unexpected events and complications may arise in patients despite scrupulous care. These events are beyond human horizons that may even push the most learned specialist against the wall puzzled or up the creek without a paddle. The public or media should not make judgement over these issues. As one of our great mentors in medicine has so wisely said, a physician or surgeon whose competence is publicly brought to test should be judged by his own peers in the surgical discipline, and not, impolitely if not unsuitably, by the townfolks, media, or the courts of law.

It is prosaic that with the steadfast swing of the association, especially along intramural affairs, attention has been yielded to extramural directives, In this respect, interest of the College has shifted to making the public more aware of the PCS as a sort of umbrella enterprise which has dedicated its cause to grouping all the cutting specialty associations into its masterful control and management, so that , to date, it has 18 societies in its fold .

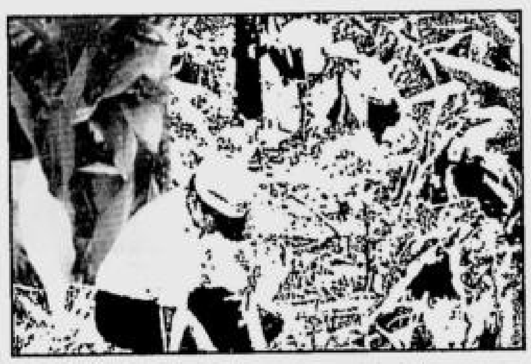
In 1997, 66 years after the By-Laws of the PCS was adopted, the Regents moved to celebrate annually the time PCS was chartered. On that year, on the basis of its 61st anniversary, a Foundation Day was launched and inaugurated for the first time. The first celebration was simple and almost imprudently overlooked and ignored. The celebration was undertaken by then President Florentino C. Doble. Simultaneous medical and surgical missions were sent to distant regions throughout the country where there were viable PCS Chapters. The PCS beyond all expectations, made its well-intentioned introduction to the people, especially those living in rural areas, and sowed the first seeds of medical consciousness to the many barriofolk who were possibly still unenlightened and wrapped in superstition regarding the various common diseases and their efficacious treatment.

Last year, something unusual was further introduced by PCS president Alberto B. Roxas to fete Foundation Day, which was a nationwide tree-planting project aimed at restoring the ecology of our watersheds and planting areas on the mountainsides which have been denuded by unscrupulous loggers and other flora concessionaires. By starting this type of reforestation, we will not only improve the mantle of coolness that tree-shade gives on the soil but also encourage our fauna to reappear, nest, and reproduce in the bowers that nature would provide, with the proper environmental elements. Flash floods, which are evidently caused by denudation of our forests and erosion of the bald stretches of marginal lands and man-made clearings, would be subsequently reduced. This novel strategy of tree-planting places the PCS with a fresh developmental vision, aside from its primal commitment in preserving and promoting health by providing the highest standards of surgical practice. The innovative texture of an annual tree- planting activity by the Fellows underscores the mission of the College, not only to improve its public image, but also to extend its civic concerns beyond its traditional areas of relevance in the science and practice of healing by operative dimensions.

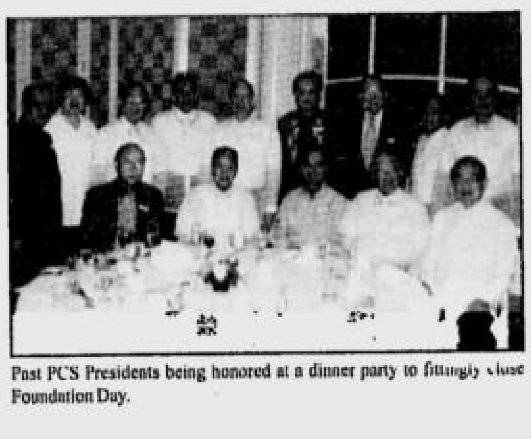
On September 8, 2001 then PCS president Alberto B. Roxas, along with Dr. Modesto O. Llamas, chairman of the External Affairs & Public Relations Committee, joined the "Bantay Kalikasan" program of ABS-CBN and brought the family members, relatives, and friends of the Fellows to the La Mesa Dam Watershed Area to "adopt a tree". They were taught how to plant a tree by La Mesa Dam Environmental Project Engineer Val Mendoza and Coordinator Marnie Alvez. It was a very meaningful experience for the PCS group and good endowment and blessing for our children to appreciate in the future.

Foundation Day is usually closed by a dinner honoring past PCS presidents, hosted by the incumbent president. It is conjured that Foundation Day of the PCS will henceforth be fittingly celebrated annually as more and more schemes will be devised by its Board of Regents directed toward community demands and vital human necessities.

A group of surgeons and their wives at the planting site in La Mesa Dam Watershed.



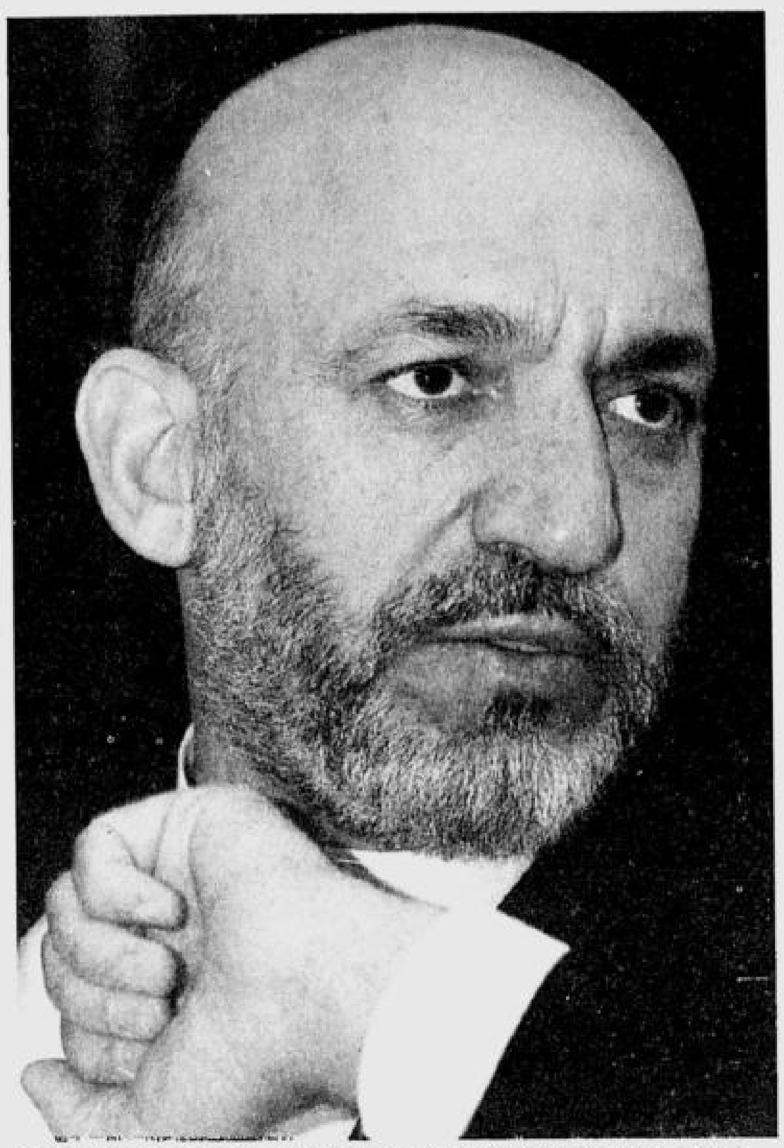
PCS surgeons leading the tree planting project to help thicken vegetation in the La Mesa Dam Watershed.



Past PCS Presidents being honored at a dinner party to fittingly close Foundation Day.

ADVT.

Karzai survives slay attempt



AFGHAN President Hamid Karzai gestures in this file photo dated July 26, 2002 taken at the presidential palace in Kabul. US President George W. Bush and other US officials reaffirmed support for Karzai following the assassination attempt on his life Sept. 5. AFP

KABUL—President Hamid Karzai was back in Kabul Friday after surviving an assassination attempt, as the Afghan capital reeled from a huge car bomb which left up to 30 people dead.

As an investigation began into Afghanistan's darkest day since the fall of the Taliban regime in December last year, the finger of blame was already being pointed at al-Qaida extremists and their allies.

World leaders led by US President George W. Bush expressed relief that Karzai emerged unhurt from Thursday's attempt on his life in the southern city of Kandahar, and condemned the explosion in Kabul.

The attacks come just days before the Sept. 9 anniversary of Northern Alliance commander Ahmed Shah Masood's assassination and the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Karzai was shot at by a "uniformed" attacker in Kandahar where he was attending the wedding of his brother Ahmad Wali. He escaped unhurt but Kandahar governor Gul Agha was slightly injured.

The assassin was shot dead on the spot by a bodyguard who was also killed in the exchange, according to Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

However a BBC reporter travelling with Karzai said the gunmen was shot dead by US special forces soldiers who guard the Afghan leader, and the Pentagon confirmed one US soldier was injured in the incident.

The BBC identified the assailant as Abdul Rahman and said he had joined Gul Agha's security forces less than three weeks ago.

It said Karzai was flown back to the Afghan capital following the attack in a US C-130 aircraft.

Just hours earlier, a busy shopping street in central Kabul was rocked by a massive blast when a suspected car bomb exploded yards from a government building killing up to 30 people and injuring dozens more.

Chief foreign ministry spokesperson Omar Samad said 12 people were confirmed dead, but that the death toll was likely to rise to at least 30. He said around 50 people were injured.

Kabul television reported that 25 people were confirmed dead, 17 of whom were women and children.

Karzai issued a statement Thursday evening which made no mention of the assassination attempt in Kandahar, but vowed to bring to justice those behind the Kabul attack.

The blast in Kabul was the deadliest of a series of explosions in recent weeks, which security officials believe may have been carried out by remnants of the al-Qaida terror network and their Taliban allies.

Abdullah indicated that he believed the attack in Kabul was the work of the two groups.

Security has already been stepped up in Kabul in the lead-up to the anniversaries of the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the assassination of Ahmad Shah Masood two days earlier by suspected al-Qaida followers.

Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac led condemnation of the attacks, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he was "profoundly shocked."

But UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said Annan was "confident that these senseless attacks will only strengthen the resolve of the international community and the legitimate Afghan authorities to bring security and stability to Afghanistan."

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking in Gabon, said the attack "just reinforces our commitment to pursue this campaign against terrorism wherever we find it."

The assassination attempt on Karzai comes around two months after his Vice-President Haji Abdul Qadir was shot dead by still unidentified assassins in Kabul.

Another vice-president, defense minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim, was also the target of an assassination attempt by bombers in April in the eastern city of Jalalabad but survived. *AFP*

US Senate votes to arm airline pilots

WASHINGTON—The US Senate on Thursday voted to arm US commercial airline pilots and allow them to use lethal force to protect threatened aircraft, despite the US administration's objections to such legislation.

Approved by an overwhelming 87-6 vote, the measure states that all specifically trained pilots would be able to carry guns in the cockpit within 24 months of enactment.

"This is an important thing to do for homeland security: to make sure we are doing everything to avoid another 9/11," Senator Barbara Boxer said just minutes before the vote.

After the September 11 attacks, in which passenger planes were hijacked and then crashed into US landmarks, killing thousands, pilots had fiercely argued that only lethal force could counter the deadly threat of hijackings.

The measure, attached as an amendment to the larger homeland security bill currently being debated in the Senate, also states that the cockpit door would not be opened during a flight except in cases of mechanical or physiological emergency.

Congress passed legislation last year permitting pilots to carry handguns at the discretion of the airlines and President George W. Bush's administration. But the plan to arm pilots was never enacted. *AFP*

India seeks extradition of ex-Union Carbide chief

ANDERSON, head of Union Carbide when a gas leak killed thousands in India in 1984. AP

NEW DELHI, India—Despite a delay of 18 years, the Indian government is preparing to seek the extradition of the American who headed Union Carbide Corp. when a gas leak killed thousands in India in 1984, a top official said Thursday.

The government was processing evidence gathered against Warren Anderson, former chairman of the company, before seeking his extradition from the United States to face trial in India, the official told reporters.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official gave no time frame as to when extradition would be sought.

Anderson headed Union Carbide when methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the plant on Dec. 2, 1984, killing 4,000 people within hours.

The Indian official's comments came days after a court in Bhopal, where the Union Carbide plant was located, rejected a request by federal prosecutors to reduce charges against Anderson to "causing death by negligence."

Anderson, who faces up to 20 years imprisonment in India on the charge of "culpable homicide," has refused to appear in court in India since the case opened in 1992.

He would have faced a maximum sentence of two years if convicted in absentia of the lesser charge.

Union Carbide accepted moral responsibility for the disaster but said the plant was sabotaged by a disgruntled employee. The charge was never proved. *AP*

Israel choppers destroy factory in Gaza Strip

GAZA—Israeli helicopter gunships destroyed a metal-working factory in the Gaza Strip on Friday in apparent retaliation for Palestinian attacks that wrecked an Israeli tank and killed two soldiers.

Missiles slammed into the foundry in the Khan Younis refugee camp hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who declared this week that conditions were ripe for a possible peace breakthrough, vowed to keep up the fight against "terror" groups.

In the West Bank city of Jenin, two Palestinian militants were found shot to death in the street in the early morning.

Palestinian witnesses said Israeli soldiers had raided their hideout and shot Kamal Silawi of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and another militant, Samir Qandil. The army had no immediate comment.

The army also blocked two main junctions in the Gaza Strip to Palestinian traffic, effectively dividing the area into three separate zones, a measure it has taken in the past after deadly attacks on its soldiers.

Sharon spoke on Thursday after Israeli police, on heightened alert on the eve of the Jewish New Year holiday, thwarted an attempt to smuggle a 600-kg car bomb—one of the largest ever discovered—from the West Bank into Israel.

The army said the foundry was targeted "because it was used by a terror organization to make ammunition." *Reuters*

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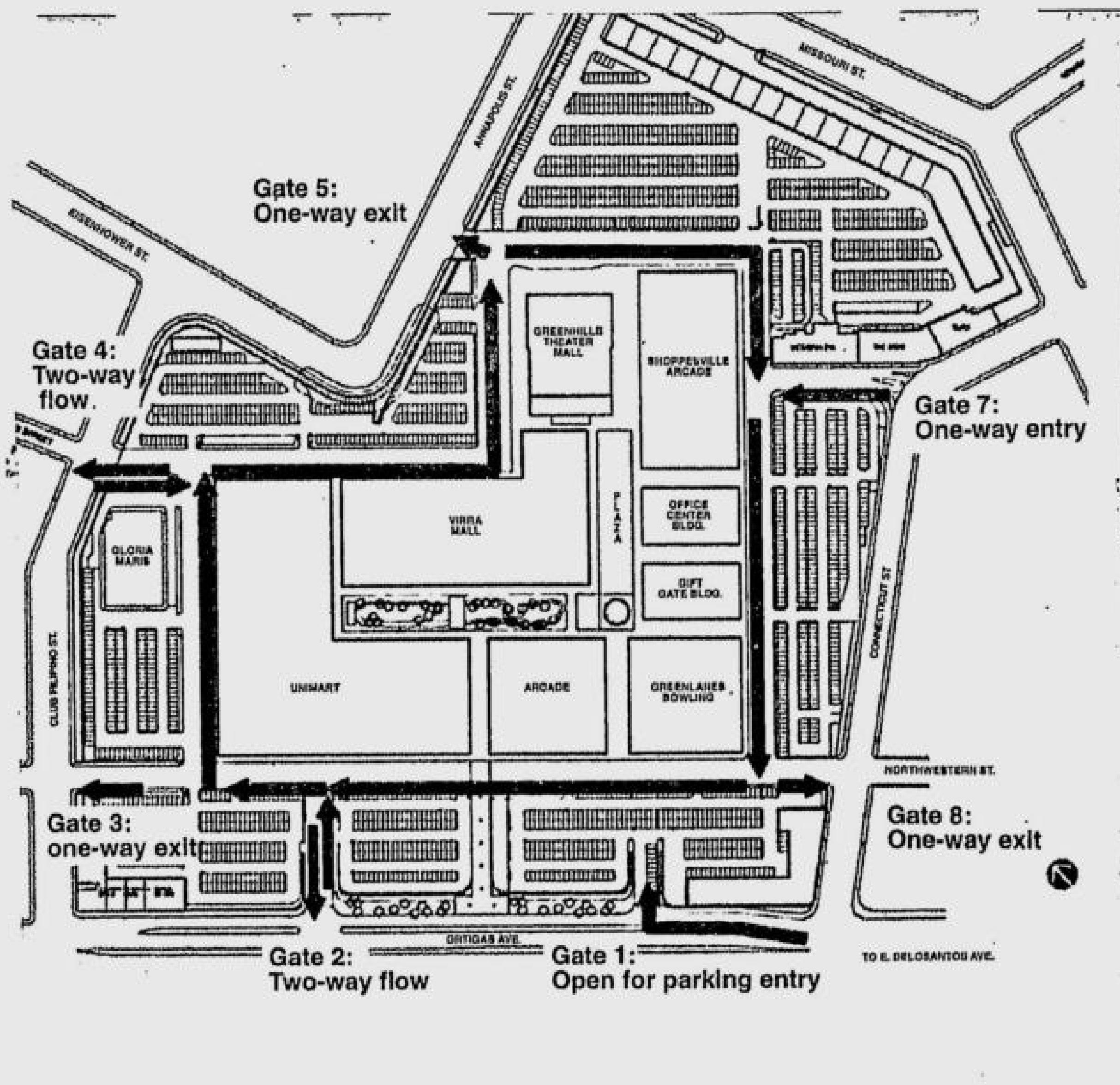

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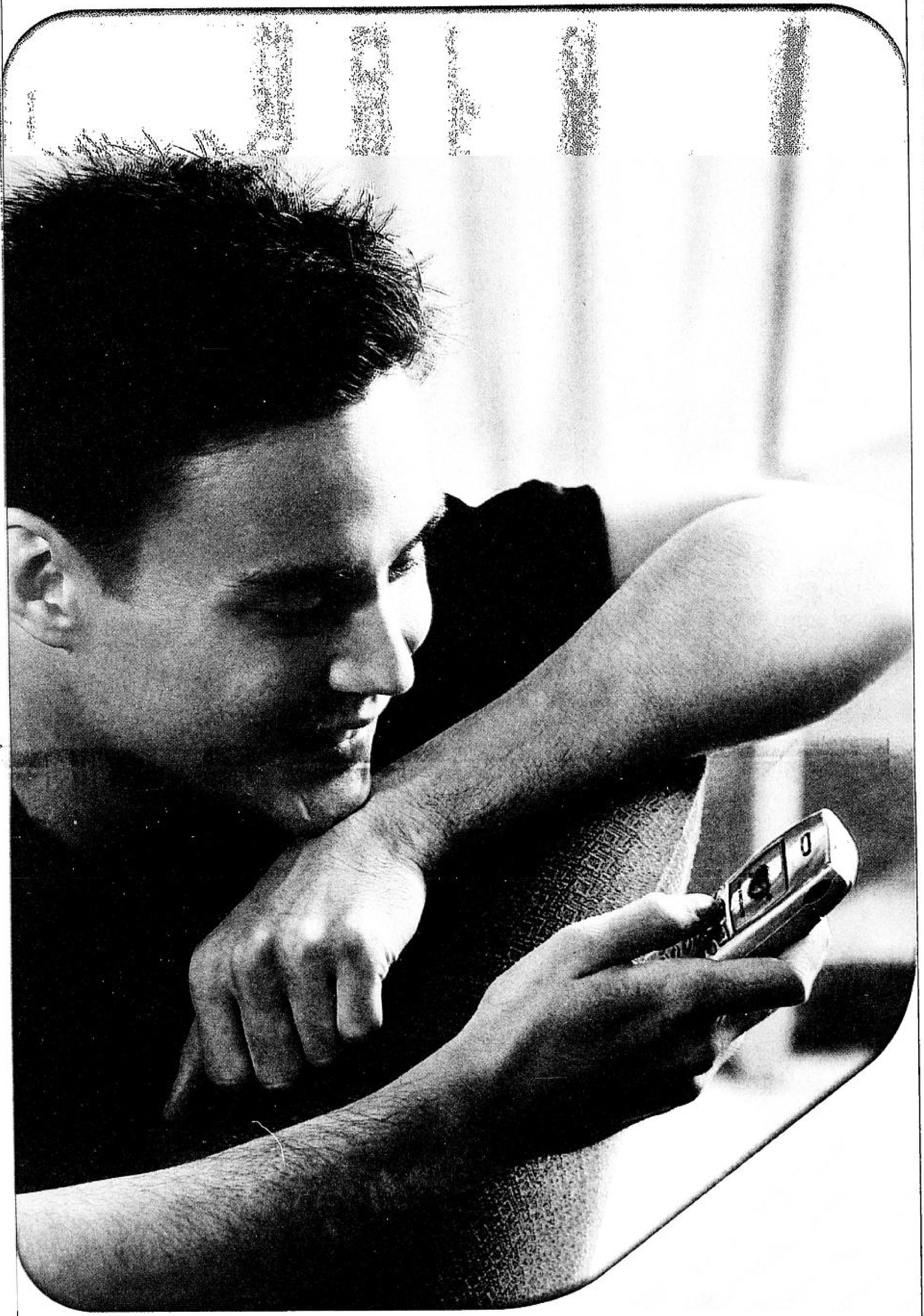

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Do you want to hear John Mayer's "Back to You"? If you like Linkin Park, you can download the hit song 'My December" from their latest album with the illusion of more instruments – "Reanimation." Get all these, plus a colored image of the album, when you access Smart Music Link's MMS collection. Wouldn't it be so much better to hear the tones with more than one beeping noise and the impression of a virtual orchestra instead? So key in POLYTONES and send to 211 for further details on what hot ringtones are available for download today!

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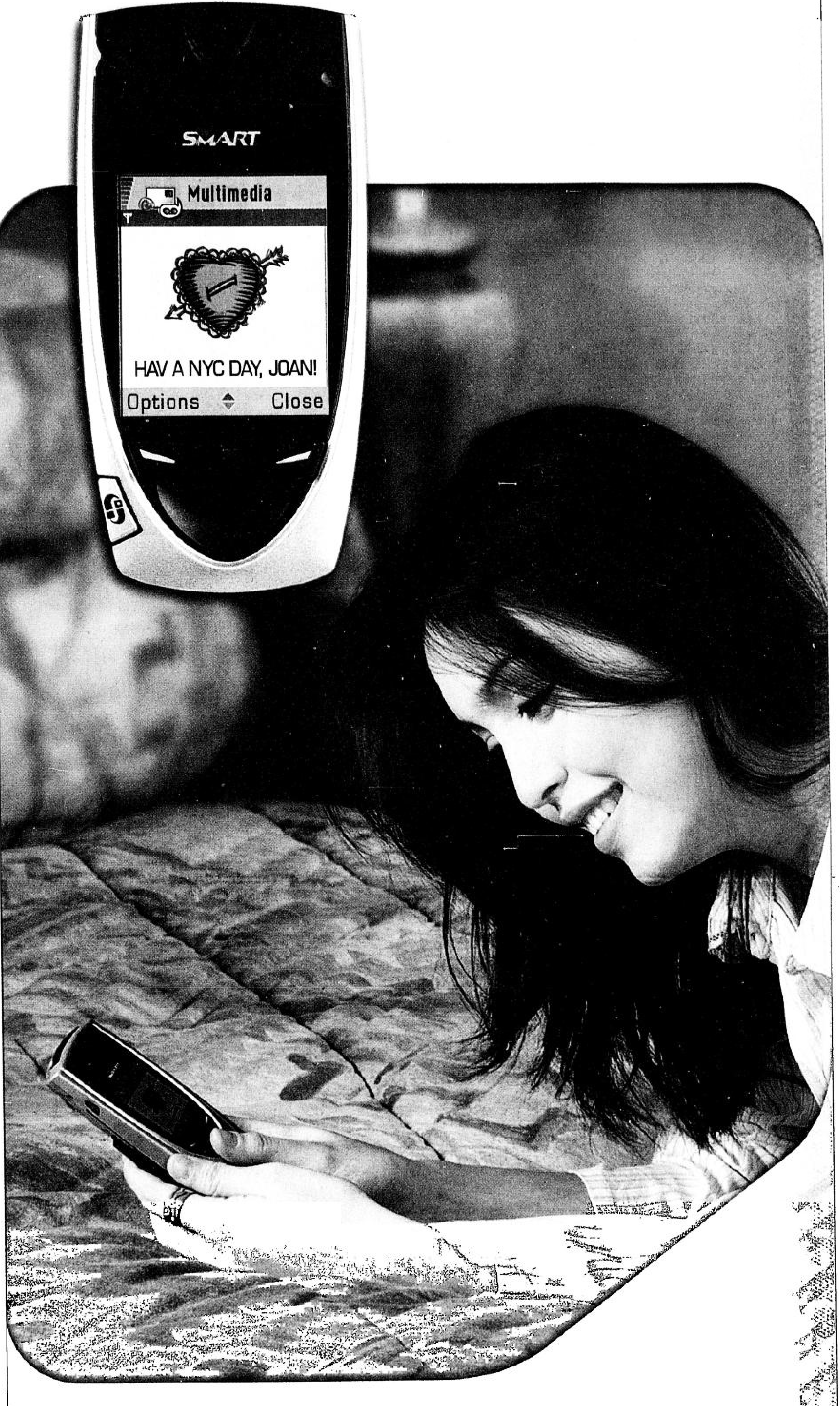

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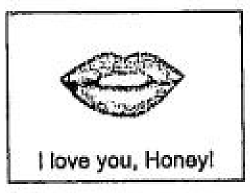
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Solon says DENR chief behind Picop power cut

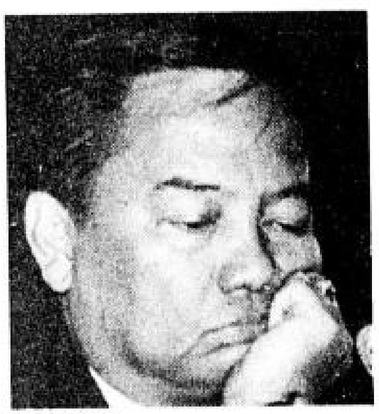
BUTUAN CITY—Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez could be behind the disconnection of the power lines of the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines (Picop) from the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

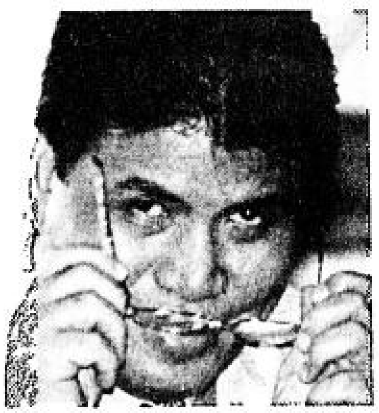
Pichay said Alvarez has been desperately trying to disrupt Picop's operations and that he might have found another way to force the wood processing firm to shut down.

"Secretary Alvarez has been trying to close and harass Picop for whatever reasons," he told reporters here.

Pichay said he could not understand why Alvarez was venting his ire on Picop when the company has been helping the economy of Caraga region.

Earlier, Pichay accused Alvarez of soliciting bribe from the wood firm to fast track the conversion of its Timber License Agreement (TLA) 43 to an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).


ALVAREZ


PICHAY

He said the delay in the conversion has caused Picop millions of pesos in losses.

"He's trying to persecute Picop instead of trying to help promote the industry," he told the INQUIRER.

But state-owned power generation firm Generation Co. (Genco), said political pressure has nothing to do with its decision to cut off Picop's power.

Genco generates power to Picop through the Napocor.

Rudy Macaibay, Genco manager, said the decision was a matter of procedure and policy.

"They failed to pay their debt so we have to cut them off," Macaibay told the INQUIRER.

Repeating an earlier Napocor statement, Macaibay said Picop's debt reached P200 million.

He said the amount was for Picop's power consumption from June.

Engineer Marvin Marcojos, Picop vice president for operation, was optimistic that power would soon be restored.

He said they have started negotiating with Genco for a "special arrangement."

"Picop is operationally okay. This problem was only temporary. We could settle our debt," Marcojos said.

After the initial talks on Thursday afternoon, Macaibay said their decision was firm and that Picop's power would only be restored when it has fully paid its debt.

The Surigao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Surseco II), which also supplies power to Picop, announced that it, too, would cut off the firm from its power lines this week.

Surseco said Picop's electric bill has ballooned to P2.2 million and the company repeatedly failed to settle it.

Engineer Crispin Lamayan, Napocor northeastern area manager, said Picop had been warned of the power cut-off. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

6,000 take part in rally vs Negros illegal logging

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—About 6,000 persons attended a Church-led caravan on Thursday to call on residents and government officials to help stop massive illegal logging inside the forest reserve of Don Salvador Benedicto town, about 47 kilometers northwest of this city.

Among those who joined the caravan were Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra and about 40 parish priests from the dioceses of Bacolod, Kabankalan and San Carlos cities.

The caravan started from three points—Kabankalan, San Carlos and Bacolod.

The participants, mostly students and members of youth organizations, were on board 300 vehicles and converged at the town plaza of Don Salvador Benedicto at noon where Mass was held.

In his homily, Navarra called on the people to protect the trees as "God's creations" and support the Church's cause in condemning logging.

He said he hoped that the residents of Don Salvador Benedicto would be touched by their conscience and become aware of their responsibilities in preventing logging inside the forest reserve.

He also expressed hope that personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would recognize their duties in putting a stop to illegal logging.

Navarra also prayed that illegal loggers would be pricked by their consciences and come out in the open.

DENR records showed that about 60 hectares of the 35,000 hectare-Northern Negros Forest Reserve Area had been destroyed by unabated timber poaching.

The forest reserve straddles the towns of Don Salvador Benedicto, Calatrava and E.B. Magalona and the cities of Talisay, Silay and Cadiz.

ROUNDUP

Jueteng collectors nabbed

STA. CRUZ, Zambales—The regional and the Sta. Cruz police swooped down Tuesday on a jueteng den in Barangay Pagatpat here and arrested 33 suspected jueteng collectors operating in northern Zambales. Chief Insp. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., town police chief, said they seized P12,401 in cash and jueteng paraphernalia. Suspected table manager Romeo Tadio said they were forced to operate illegal gambling due to lack of support from the government.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Suspect's denial

BANGUED, Abra—After pleading not guilty, a suspect in the murder of former rebel priest Conrado Balweg blamed the military and the police for linking him to the case. Clarence Austin of Sudipen, La Union, said he had sleepless nights because he could not understand why he was tagged as the suspect as he had never met Balweg. Austin, 39, was arraigned before Judge Corpuz Alzate of the Abra regional trial court. Austin is a lay leader of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor reclaims post

CABANATUAN CITY—Suspended Mayor Cesar Eduardo of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, reassumed his post Wednesday after the office of the Ombudsman lifted the order for his two-month preventive suspension. Eduardo was suspended following a complaint by former village chief Marcelo Salvador that he withheld benefits for the barangay. Eduardo said he was not given a chance to explain his side. He said the complaint came in retaliation for an order he signed dismissing Salvador as head of Barangay Magsalisi.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Commentator hacked

CABANATUAN CITY—A radio commentator of the provincial government's radio station here was hacked several times by a bolo-wielding man on Monday in Talavera town. Mar Tecson, 42, of radio station dwNE, survived the attack and is now recuperating in a hospital here. He was reportedly attacked by Nicasio Gabay, 48, while he was on his way home in Barangay Maestrang Kikay in Talavera.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Health for poor

LEGAZPI CITY—Poor families, especially in the far-flung areas of Albay, will be the first beneficiaries of the province's P22 million savings to be used for their health insurance and services. Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara said the P22 million savings came from the budget allocated by the provincial government annually to the Ziga Memorial District Hospital in Tabaco City and the Josefina Belmonte Memorial District Hospital in Ligao City. The two district hospitals will be turned over to the cities of Ligao and Tabaco, including their facilities and operations as mandated by law.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 women stabbed dead

ALAMINOS, Laguna—Two elderly women were stabbed dead inside their house after midnight of Sept. 4 by still unknown killers. Police identified the victims as Violeta Montecillo, 63, a businesswoman and her neighbor identified as "Mering" Saldua, 61, both residents of Poblacion this town. Antonio Masajo, of the Alaminos Police Station, said Montecillo, sustained 13 stab wounds while Saldua was stabbed several times which caused their deaths. The police are still determining whether the killing was a robbery-hold-up incident or otherwise.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Manila/Davao	P 2288	P 4576	P 1599	P 2799
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Manila/Iloilo	P 1599	P 3198	P 1599	P 2799
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Gov quits as head of peace council

By Joey Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla has resigned as chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) because of "lack of support and cooperation" from the national secretariat.

Petilla said it was difficult on her part to resign but she had no choice.

"With a very uncooperative secretariat, my moves will become limited. There is no use staying as chair of the RPOC," she said.

Petilla sent her resignation letter dated Aug. 20 to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, chair of the National Peace and Order Council.

Petilla said she was disappointed by the "lack of cooperation and support" from the secretariat led by National Police Commission Regional Director Rey de Veyra.

De Veyra, however, denied that he had not been cooperating with the governor.

"I have been in the government service for so many years now. But this is the first time that such a thing was ever said of me," he said. "But I take this with a grain of salt. We are not onion-skinned."

De Veyra said he still recognized Petilla as RPOC chair because Lina has not accepted her resignation.

Petilla was elected chair of the RPOC more than a year ago, replacing former Eastern Samar Gov. Ruperto Ambil.

Petilla said that in many instances, her requests for assistance had not been acted upon by the secretariat.

Coconut production down

PALO, Leyte—Coconut production in Eastern Visayas dropped by 27 percent from January to August this year, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

Edilberto Nierva, PCA regional manager, told the INQUIRER that only 92,186 metric tons of coconut were produced as of August this year.

The figure was 34,942 MT lower compared to the 127,128 MT of coconut produced in the same period last year, he added.

The 27 percent drop in production would mean an estimated loss of P443 million in potential income, said Nierva.

Nierva said Eastern Visayas exports copra worth between $17 million to $20 million annually. The region's market includes Japan, some Asean countries and Europe.

"The (coconut) industry contributes almost 40 percent to the region's gross domestic product (GDP)," he told the INQUIRER.

But Nierva said the drop was artificial because it was caused by what he called "biological stress" on coconuts locally known as *layag*.

"This is just a cycle that hit our coconut trees in every four or six years," he said. "So starting early next year, the industry can recover." *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel · Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

A REPAIR vessel moored off the coast of Barangay Talisay, Daanbantayan, Cebu. TONEE DESPOJO

When blast fishing makes power supply go haywire

By Ma. Diosa Labiste, *Iloilo City*
and Jolene R. Bulambot, *Cebu City*

DYNAMITE fishing does not just wreck havoc on marine habitats. It can also disrupt the supply of electricity in many parts of the Visayas.

In the next two weeks, the islands of Cebu, Panay and Negros will have to deal with daily three-hour brownouts because of major repairs that have to be done on the Visayas grid's submarine cables. The culprit: Near shore dynamite fishing.

The brownouts are expected to adversely affect business and industrial activities in the cities of Cebu (Cebu), Mandaue (Cebu), Lapulapu (Cebu, Mactan Island), Iloilo (Iloilo), Bacolod (Negros Occidental), Dumaguete (Negros Oriental), and Roxas (Capiz); and the other cities and towns in these provinces.

National Power Corporation officials said rampant blast fishing in seas off northern Leyte and Cebu has damaged its submarine cables.

Homemade explosives with ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer, is soaked in gasoline, placed in a bottle with blasting cap and used in dynamite fishing. Sometimes a weight is tied around the bottle so it will sink.

Dynamite fishing is prevalent from October to January when waves are huge, after a poor catch, or when thieves plunder fish traps.

Critical level

In a press briefing in Iloilo City last week, Napocor officials said the power supply of the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid becomes critical when repairs are made on the 18.3 kilometer fiber optic cable connecting Cebu and Leyte islands. The cable carries 200 megawatts of electricity generated by the geothermal plant in Tongonan, Leyte, which, along with the Palimpinon geothermal plant in Negros Oriental, is a major source of electricity for the grid. The total capacity of the grid reaches 825 megawatts. The repairs will reduce the capacity to 625 mw, the Napocor said.

Napocor's Rene Sison said two submarine cables, buried at least a meter-and-a half deep, were damaged. The damage was detected in 1999 but emergency repair was decided only this year. The cables were stripped of their rubber covering leaving the steel insulation exposed. The damaged portion is about 17 meters deep and about a kilometer away off Talisay City, Daanbantayan, Cebu.

Experts from Nexan, a Norwegian contractor, said the damaged portion would be cut off and replaced with a new one. The repair will be done in 22 days, from Sept. 5 to 21.

Without power from Leyte, the grid has no reserve power during weekdays, especially during peak hours from 6 to 9 p.m. Power outages are expected for the duration of the repair period.

Zenda Vidal, administrative and finance officer of Napocor in Western Visayas, said power supply would be reduced during peak hours in Cebu, Negros and Panay.

Feeders that would be affected are those of the Visayan Electric Cooperative (Cebu), Central Negros Electric Cooperative, Capiz Electric Cooperative and Iloilo Electric Cooperative II.

Electric consumers in the grid are asked to conserve electricity to prevent power outages.

Repairs of the damaged submarine cable started Friday.

The repair would be made under the waters off Talisay City, Daanbantayan, Cebu where the cable station is located.

Venusto Hamoy Jr., vice president and head of the operations and maintenance division of the National Transmission Corp. (TransCo) in the Visayas-Mindanao, could not estimate how much the repair would cost. But he said the damaged cables were worth between $5 million to $6 million.

Punctures

There are four submarine cables laid in the seas between the islands of Cebu and Leyte. Cables No. 3 and 4 were damaged by dynamite blasts.

The length of each of these cables, from Leyte to Cebu—is 32 km. But only about a hundred meters of each of cables 3 and 4 need to be replaced, Hamoy said.

The two cables suffered many punctures. The contractor has estimated the repair of each cut in the cable to take 72 hours.

Sison said the Napocor in Cebu and Leyte have been supporting Bantay Dagat, a sea-watch group that patrols the seas. However blast fishing still occurs. The Napocor in Panay is also guarding the submarine cable between Panay and Negros, particularly in San Juan, Barotac Viejo in Iloilo and Tumunton, E.B. Magalona in Negros Occidental.

Blasts used to be heard in the seas off Barotac Viejo and adjacent towns until last year. Today dynamite fishing retreated to Iloilo's northernmost town of Carles, where blasts are referred to as "fiestas."

The equally destructive trawl fishing is now left to comb the seas off Barotac Viejo.

Iloilo province has launched a campaign to rid the seas of destructive fishing methods. Fernando de Castro, fishery division chief of the provincial agriculture office, said 14 trawling vessels and their crew were arrested early last month off Barotac Viejo.

Trawl fishing is so-called after the kind of net used—with large *cul d'sacs*, fitted with lead weights, 10-15 kilos each, and a wooden board that scrapes the ocean floor. The contraption has a pair of "wings," or long cloths tied to the sides of the net that flutter when dragged under sea, that, along with the weights and board, scares the fish into the sac.

Villagers of Leganes cope with overfishing through artificial reefs

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

AS it is anywhere, restaurants in Iloilo City are particular about the kind and quality of fish they serve their customers, given the fact that their reputations will rise or fall on the freshness of their dishes.

Though most seafood restaurants here get their fish from different suppliers, they are more particular about getting high-value fish from Barangay Camangay, a coastal community in Leganes town, about 8 kilometers north of Iloilo City.

Fish from Camangay are high-value mostly because its waters are the central and congregating point of Iloilo's Jalaur and Jaro Rivers, making its marine life particularly rich.

"When it floods, fish collect in Camangay," said Enrico Inayan, 62, a fisherman who also operates the Inayan Beach Resort in Camangay.

In Camangay's waters, fishermen easily catch fat marine catfish (Alimusan), snappers (Managat), groupers (Inid and Lapulapu) and other delicacies sought after by restaurants.

The fishermen of Barangay Camangay have found their market niche in the big seafood restaurants of Iloilo after finding out that such fish do not sell briskly in the wet markets since these were too expensive.

Fish caught in Camangay's water sells for at least P120 to P180, depending on the variety. The restaurants, in turn, sell their fish dishes at P120 a serving or earning P700 for a kilo of fish.

It has been a win-win situation for both fishermen and restaurateurs in the past decades until 1999 and 2000 when fish catch started to dwindle because of illegal fishing, intrusion by fishermen from other places and improper management of coastal resources.

Windfall

Worried about their future, 25 fishermen of Camangay formed themselves into the Camangay Fishermen's Association (CAFA) with the objective of improving their livelihood, holding on to their market niche and going after intruders fishing in their territorial waters.

They decided that instead of going farther ashore like most fishermen do when catch dwindles, they would "invite" the fish to come over and hold them "captive" through artificial reefs made of bamboo and old tires.

Though making reefs is already a widely accepted practice in most parts of the Philippines, the CAFA did not expect such a windfall.

"Fifteen days after we put up the reefs sometime in August 2001, the fish started coming in," said fisherman Benjamin Gardoncillo, 59.

Warlito Sompreque, Leganes agricultural technologist, said that after 40 artificial reefs of the pyramid type were distributed in an area of 3 km from Camangay to Nabitasan—or the whole coastal line of Leganes—Camangay's fishermen were able to catch 15 kilos of high-value fish such as groupers and snappers in two hours.

In 30 minutes, they were able to get 10 kilos of marine catfish, a favorite delicacy among Ilonggo diners.

Prior to the artificial reef, Camangay's fishermen would fish all the way to Siete Pecados on Guimaras Island or the waters of Barotac Nuevo town, which is 30 km away. They would even risk their lives by diving 9 fathoms deep without aerators just to catch high-value fish.

Since the artificial reef in Camangay is only less than a kilometer away from the shoreline and is in a shallow area, the fishermen virtually have their bounty a spit away.

Fish is caught through spears, hook-and-line and diving at least twice a month at only five fathoms deep.

Inayan said that fishermen or their wives could deliver 15 kilos of high-value fish at one time to restaurants in Iloilo City. With hook-and-line fishing, the fishermen can deliver at least five kilos daily.

Managing the catch

"The fishermen know how to manage their catch in the reef. They catch the bigger fish and leave the smaller ones," said Larry Locara, chief of the research division of the Iloilo Provincial Planning and Development Office.

Locara, who has helped the Camangay fishermen with their livelihood efforts, has overturned the concept of coastal resource management by focusing first on the livelihood aspect and then drawing the community into preserving that livelihood by improving on the environment.

This is where Locara's three-level approach comes in. The first is to teach fishermen how to make fish shelters like bamboo or tire reefs. The second is to rehabilitate the mangroves.

"Put livelihood and survival first before encouraging people to plant mangroves or improve their environment. This is program intervention where you pick a good project that will grab the attention of the community," said Locara, adding that people cannot think of anything else on a hungry stomach but survival.

The third level, which should be functional two years from now, is "stewardship" of the resources of Leganes' entire coast.

"Eco-tourism should then follow. That should be able to sustain the whole setup," said Locara, who took his post-graduate studies on agribusiness management in UP Los Baños.

Camangay's fishermen may also be just plain lucky because aside from their waters being the converging point of two of Iloilo's biggest rivers, it is also a kilometer away from the Iloilo-Negros Trench where fish regenerate.

Intruders

Currently, however, all is not roses for Camangay's fishermen. They have to contend with intruders who unabashedly fish in their territorial waters and even destroy artificial reefs.

"Fishermen from other towns and Iloilo City destroy the reefs, cutting the ropes that bind the bamboos to drive the fish away. It is such a headache," said Inayan in Hiligaynon.

Helpless against illegal loggers

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda

AFTER rice smuggling, it is now illegal logging that is hogging the news and the focus has fallen on the central Negros town of Salvador Benedicto.

The desecration of the forest reserve of the province has so outraged residents that both barbershop talk and media coverage discuss nothing else these days. As this is being written, the Church and civil society are set to hold a caravan to the troubled town to underscore their indignation at the rape of the Negros forest.

So far, the estimate is that about 600,000 board feet of prized timber have been produced from the illegal activity. That would not have been so unconscionable were it not for the discovery, too, that the trees that had been cut down include those already estimated at 50 to 100 years old.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources seems to be helpless because, until now, no big fish has been identified. And nobody believes that the few barangay people who have been apprehended are capable of supplying the equipment that had been used by the timber poachers to do the job. So far, a barangay captain and some members of his family have been identified, and some were reported to have been caught with the goods.

But investigators, led by Gov. Joseph Maranon, have so far not made any important headway.

The DENR responded by reshuffling its people in the area.

Still, the finger pointing goes on and the governor has already called on the President and the National Bureau of Investigation for help. There is hope that some development may be noted this weekend. In the meantime, Negrenses can only grieve for the big bald spot that has been left on its precious reserve.

* * *

In the meantime, the capitol has announced that the premium tourist attraction in the province, the once famous Mambucal Summer Resort, will be closed for renovation for several months.

Mambucal, where national figures and foreign visitors had been proudly hosted in the pre-World War II days, had so deteriorated that a major restoration job and millions of pesos will be needed to bring back a semblance of its former grandeur.

This promised to be a big job, since the area has been overran by squatters and fighting cock raisers whose ejection will be a major concern. However, everybody is hoping that the work will be accomplished since Mambucal, with its fantastic seven waterfalls, hot springs, pine trees and Baguio-like temperature, could be the province's main hope in attracting tourists.

A fly in the ointment, however, is the apparent revival of offensives by the New People's Army which is suspected of being behind bus-burning and ambuscades in southern Negros Occidental. Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, who is also in the forefront of the drive and protests against illegal logging, also appealed to the NPA to stop the violence.

* * *

In Bacolod City, meanwhile, the academe was shaken this week with the apprehension of a college instructor in a drug den. The teacher has been charged with drug offenses.

* * *

At City Hall, it's business as usual, with the city council still at odds with the mayor. This time, the councilors have placed Mayor Luzviminda Valdez on the spot by demanding that she explain why she granted exclusive rights to the private entity called the MassKara Foundation to handle festivities slated in October. The councilors also want her to account for funds collected for the MassKara festival when she was the one heading it as chair in year 2000.

Valdez brushed off their demand, saying it was a staff member of the treasurer's office who was in charge of the money. The staff member named, however, claims that she was in charge of a portion of the funds, which she is now trying to account for.

An attempt to divert the fire from Valdez led to the involvement of the 2001 festival chair, Councilor Bobby Rojas, who, however, claims that he has accounted for the money during his turn and had, in fact, had the report published in local dailies.

In the meantime, residents are apprehensive about the festival because only a few weeks are left for the preparations and the bickering over funds is still going on.

KATUNAYAN Tuloy ang RECALL sa Taguig!

PREPARATORY RECALL ASSEMBLY
Municipality of Taguig

PRA RESOLUTION NO. 02-01
(Series of 2002)

RESOLUTION TO INITIATE RECALL OF MAYOR SIGFRIDO TIÑGA FOR LOSS OF CONFIDENCE

We, the undersigned members of the Preparatory Recall Assembly of the Municipality of Taguig, representing a majority of the Preparatory Recall Assembly present and meeting in a validity constituted session held on 01 September 2002, at 4:30 p.m., in SEA GULL AVENUE, SEA BREEZE SUBDIVISION,Hagonoy, Taguig, Metro Manila, after due deliberation, and on motion duly seconded, have voted to APPROVE the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS, we desire to end the illegal, unlawful, and oppressive acts of MAYOR SIGFRIDO TIÑGA constituting a continuing betrayal of public trust, as well as graft and corruption, such as:

a) The destruction and demotion of movable and immovable property,
b) The harassment and oppression of Taguig residents,
c) Blatant and arrogant nepotism,
d) The irresponsible, wasteful and/or illegal use of public funds,
e) The unlawful use of municipal property for a personal use, and
f) Other unlawful and oppressive acts;

WHEREAS, we desire and direly need to preserve and protect the welfare of our community and municipality;

NOW THEREFORE, we RESOLVE AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO DECLARE OUR LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY OF SIGFRIDO TIÑGA TO CONTINUE AS MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGUIG:

RESOLVE, AS ITS IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to declare the general LOSS OF CONFIDENCE of the members of the Preparatory Recall Assembly of the Municipality of Taguig in MAYOR SIGFRIDO TIÑGA, and to call for his recall pursuant to law;

RESOLVE FINALLY, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to petition the Commission of Elections to schedule the holding of the recall election for the position of MAYOR of the Municipality of Taguig within thirty (30) days from receipt of this Resolution, pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA7160), Section 71.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands, and affixed our thumb marks in the presence of the members of the Preparatory Recall Assembly, this 1st day of September 2002, in the Municipality of Taguig.

DAPAT MALAMAN NG PUBLIKO – Kami pong 84 na barangay officials at SK chairmen na kumakatawan sa mayorya ng barangay councils ng 18 barangay ng Taguig ay lumagda at sumuporta sa PRA Resolution No. 02-01 upang MAI-RECALL si MAYOR SIGFRIDO 'FREDDIE' R. TIÑGA. Ang aming paglagda sa nasabing resolusyon ay malaya, kusang loob, walang pamimilit at anumang kapalit naming ginawa. Ito'y ayon sa idinidikta ng aming konsensiya at pinaniniwalaang katotohanan upang sagipin sa pagkalunod at pagkalugmok ang aming mahal na bayang Taguig sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Mayor Tiñga. Ang recall ay para sa kapakanan ng aming mamamayan at progreso ng bayan hindi laan para sa na interes ng sinumang indibiduwal.

MARIIN naming itinatanggi na kami'y binayaran upang sumang-ayon sa recall tulad ng akusasyon ni Mayor Tiñga. Ito po'y "black propaganda" laban sa aming magandang mithiin para sa pagsulong ng aming mahal na Bayang Taguig. Wala ring basehan ang alegasyon ni Mayor Tiñga na ILLEGAL ang ginawa naming paglagda sa PRA resolution. Maaaring ito'y hindi namin nagawa sa itinakdang venue ngunit ito'y dahil na rin sa ginawang pagharang sa amin ng mga tauhan ng munisipyo sa pangunguna na rin ng administrator ni Mayor Tiñga na si Atty. Wilfredo Villar. Ito ang tanging dahilan kaya minarapat naming gawin ang paglagda sa isang "waiting shed" ng ay Breeze Executive Village, Brgy. Hagunoy. Ito'y ilang metro lamang ang layo sa Sea Breeze Resort, ang lugar na dapat sana'y pinagdausan ng PRA. Ginawa namin ito upang maiwasan ang mas malalang kaguluhan sa pagitan ng magkabilang panig.

TUKTUKAN

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Chairman

Kagawad:
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EDUARDO G. CRUZ
EDUARDO V. MENDOZA
ARRIOLA SALALIMA

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BAMBANG

Kagawad:
SONNY C. CRUZ
AQUILINO C. STA. ANA

HAGUNOY

Kagawad:
EDWARD M. ENCARNACION
CESAR V. FRANCO
E. Silvestre
EUFROCINIO C. SILVESTRE

LOWER BICUTAN

Kagawad:
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ROEL O. PACAYRA

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Kagawad:
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Kagawad:
CHARLIE U. BERNABE
EDGARDO O. ESTACIO
RENER SP. LANDRITO

STA. ANA

Kagawad:
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ZOSIMO E. DELA CRUZ
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NAPINDAN

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ALMARIO T. BERNABE
ALFREDO P. BERNARDO

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Kagawad:
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YOLANDA J. REYES
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SIGNAL VILLAGE

Kagawad:
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CONSTANCIA G. DEL ROSARIO
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BAGONG TANYAG

JUANITO N. TOVILLA
Chairman

Kagawad:
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LOURDES B. FINES
MENARDO D. QUIZON
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SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRPERSONS

Jilianne Estacio
JILIANNE ESTACIO
Barangay Palingon-Tipas

PAUL DAVID LAURIN
Brgy. Sta. Ana

ALBERT NICHOLAS T. LOZADA
Brgy. Tuktukan

D.P. Pineda
DANCEL REA P. PINEDA
Barangay Upper Bicutan

LORELYN FORTUNO
Brgy. Bagong Tanyag

RALPH ALLAN GERONIMO
Brgy. Calzada-Tipas

CHRISTIAN JOY B. DIMAGUILA
Brgy. Ligid-Tipas

HAREEM PAUTIN
Brgy. Maharlika Village

SAVE TAGUIG

Paid Advt.

Anti-Piatco groups back Naia 3 takeover

By Abigail L. Ho

CRITICS of the Macapagal administration turned government allies yesterday as they expressed support for its proposed takeover of the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project.

Various labor groups and other nongovernment organizations have come together to form the Scrap the Piatco Deal Coalition (Scrap).

The group is composed of the National Labor Union, Philippine Airlines Employees Association, Miascor Workers Union, Alliance of Progressive Labor, National Federation of Free Labor Unions, National Confederation of Labor, M-Log Workers Union, Nayong Pilipino Employees Association, Akbayan, Alab-Katipunan, Sulo ng Pilipino and Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Kaakbay).

Scrap co-chair Antonio Policarpio said Gloria Tan-Climaco's recommendation—to buy out the German partners in Naia 3 concessionaire Philippine International Air Terminals Co. for $300 million—was but "fair and just to workers in the aviation industry."

He said Piatco deserved to be kicked out of the project because its build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract with the government was detrimental to the country.

"The deal has gone through two Philippine Presidents already, with (President Macapagal's) administration being the third to handle it. A number of lawmakers and other government officials have said that this contract is good for the country. Nobody spoke against it. But Climaco showed that she's the only one in government who actually has the balls to reveal the irregularities in the contract," he said.

"People are just trying to ruin her to prevent the government from accepting her recommendation. There is even a syndicate of lawmakers that are bent on defacing her. But for us, she is 100-percent credible," he said.

Airport employees

Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center commissioner David Diwa Jr. slammed Piatco for claiming to want to absorb existing airport employees when the new terminal starts operating.

"They (Piatco) won't absorb MIAA (Manila International Airport Authority) employees. During the times when we were staging protests against them, they told us that they would do so. But a provision in their BOT contract specifically stated that they wouldn't, and now they're even using the law as a scapegoat," he said.

Section 5.18 of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (Arca) dated Nov. 26, 1998 and annexed to Piatco's BOT contract states that the Naia 3 builder "has no obligation to hire the displaced employees of GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines), DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) and/or MIAA."

"Piatco's never had the intention to absorb workers that will be displaced by the new terminal. From the start, they have taken a very anti-labor stance," Diwa said.

Piatco on Thursday said it was the law that prevented it from hiring incumbent airport employees.

Manila 'invades' San Francisco

From page A1

nearby Moscone Center.

At the Gardens, firefighter Don Goggin was seen taking a swig of *buko* juice, as his partner Jack Chow downed a delectable lunch of steamed rice and sizzling chicken *adobo*. The two were taking a break from assisting San Francisco police who were enjoying samples of *dinuguan* and *sago't gulaman*.

"This is literally 'the' Philippine invasion of San Francisco. Market Street resembled Edsa and even Mendiola with the familiar leftist chants and slogans from the youth groups I saw," said Josephine, an immigrant and a spectator who watched the Filipino parade from Civic Center to the Moscone Center on Sunday afternoon.

The parade was part of twin events bannered by the First Filipino Global Networking Convention and the Pistahan Arts Festival. The parade showcased floats depicting Filipino culture, including renditions of the Sinulog festival and other folk dances, *escrima* and *arnis* demonstrations and even the Mendiola rallies.

Teasing drivers

In between, Muni F line buses screeched to a halt, with their Filipino drivers teasing passersby with announcements about Manila routes.

"Hindi bus stop *diyan, kaya huminto yan* at *nag*-pick up ng *pasahero* (That's not a bus stop, that's why the bus is stopping there and picking up passengers)," a Filipino spectator joked.

At the Yerba Buena Gardens, Filipino boy bands and other hip-hop groups brought the house down as white and black Americans joined the fray. Many sampled Filipino food.

"This is cool and refreshing, especially on a hot day like this," Goggin said as he took a sip of "ice-cold *buko* juice" sold at $2 a cup. Melon and *sago't gulaman* also proved soothing in the sweltering San Francisco summer heat.

Although the Pistahan Festival ended on a positive note, the organizers of the global conference, touted to be the biggest Filipino convention ever, were forced to cancel closing ceremonies on Sunday, reportedly because of lack of funds.

Participation however was still upbeat with at least 5,000 participants on the first day attending parallel conferences on various Fil-Am issues, such as the Veterans bill, the problem of screeners and absconders, youth identity crisis, immigration concerns and more.

Earlier, on Thursday and Friday, the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Naffaa) also held a preliminary convention in San Jose, California. Naffaa is the largest Fil-Am umbrella group in the United States.

Gov't: No takeover, just renegotiation

From page A1

with the contract, I take it as the duty of the government to help them correct the alleged infirmities," he said.

Perez made the disclosure as he assured Piatco, which is riven by a stockholder squabble, that the administration was not keen on taking over the operations of Naia 3.

"What I want to have is if it is cleared that there are some infirmities in the contract, by all means, let us correct these infirmities. And let us make it (the contract) as palatable and acceptable to the people and to the government as possible," Perez said.

"My stand is, I want to make it work. I just want to remove the kinks, remove what is bugging everybody, remove what is perceived to be onerous and prejudicial to the government, and by all means let us make it work," he told reporters.

At the Palace, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye emphasized that the government had no plans from the start to take over the project.

"The government never intended to take over," he said. "The government just wants to review certain onerous provisions but everything should be left to the stockholders."

"I think the stockholders realized that it is better for them to get their act together. That is good. That is also the position of the President," Bunye said.

"But this will not prevent the government from trying to correct what is considered as onerous provisions in the amended contract," Bunye said.

What about Climaco?

Climaco is a member of the review committee. The others are Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and National Economic and Development Authority Director Dante Canlas.

Climaco had broached the idea of taking over the Piatco contract by buying out Piatco's German partner, Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide (Fraport), for $300 million. But on paper, the Germans own only 30 percent of Piatco equity.

"I'm not Secretary Climaco. I'm Secretary Perez. I always take my own stand, and I'm not swayed by anybody else's stand," Perez said.

Perez said that he was against any takeover because he wouldn't want the business sector to think that the government would take over their businesses. "That would be sending the wrong signal."

He said that the only way for the government to take over the Terminal 3 project was if Piatco "voluntarily" withdrew from completing the project.

He said the primary task of his committee was "to examine the offer of the German (investors), to find out whether it is acceptable, to examine the contracts whether the provisions should be renegotiated, and if so to renegotiate the same."

Asked if the President would eventually share his views, Perez said: "She knows my views. When I was told to chair, well, I said my view is for renegotiation, not for cancellation, not for takeover. And she continued with the notion that I will be the chairman."

"But of course the President could always overrule me, and whatever the President says (should be followed). But I feel that it is incumbent upon us not to send wrong signals to the business sector."

Blue ribbon

At the fifth Senate blue ribbon hearing on the Piatco contract, opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III took Climaco to task for agreeing to buy out the Germans for $300 million even though they were only minority stockholders.

"Government is buying a minority for a lot of money," Osmeña said. He pointed out that while Fraport had a "beneficial interest" of 61.44 percent in Piatco, because of equity stakes in other Piatco companies, it actually had "effective control or equity" of only 30 percent.

In fact, Osmeña said, Fraport only had four voting seats in the Piatco board while the group led by Piatco president Cheng Yong had six.

Climaco acknowledged that board composition was "one of the disputes (within Piatco)."

Given Fraport's minority stake, Osmeña said, the government should have agreed to pay only $90 million for the German firm's stake.

"We should even be paying lower," he added.

Osmeña also questioned Climaco about how Fraport was able to arrive at the figure of $400 million.

Climaco replied that, apart from the $300 million that will go to Fraport for its equity, $57 million will go to Takenaka, the Japanese contractor, and $43 million as reimbursement to the other shareholders, including the Cheng group and Japanese firm Nissho Iwai.

She said the $57 million to be paid to Takenaka was part of a guaranteed contract it had with Fraport. But Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino was quick to debunk her claim, saying that "it was the Piatco board that convinced Takenaka to stay on and advance the $57 million after Fraport decided to leave us with the project already 88 percent complete."

GMA's orders

Perez said that the President did not order him and the committee to take "specific" action steps, "except to examine the offers, if any, to examine the contract, and see what should be done."

On Monday, the President created the committee empowered not only to review the deal forged between the government and Piatco but also to renegotiate every aspect of "all operations within Terminal 3, including air traffic fare and maintenance, cargo handling and catering."

"All of these shall be considered with the end view of asserting the right of the government to provide welfare (for) our passengers," said Perez.

"So we are going to look into the Piatco contract and consider certain circumstances" including the provision in the Piatco contract that, he said, "provides (Piatco with) a monopoly of the (international airports in the) entire Luzon."

Monopoly of airports, services

He said that the monopoly "is also with respect to all operations within Terminal 3, including air traffic fare and maintenance, cargo handling and catering."

"There should be no monopoly in the operation of the airports in Luzon, which is what is provided for in the Piatco contract. As to monopoly in the services, this is one of the concerns that we are going to discuss with the investors."

He categorically admitted that the committee would rid the contract of provisions granting Piatco a monopoly of the services at the Naia Terminal 3. However, he said that the committee "would as much as possible try to make a contract acceptable to all parties."

"We are also going to check whether it will be to the best interest of the nation to allow the initial charge of US$20 per passenger as terminal fee," said Perez, who said he found the charge exorbitant.

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Satur finds life as solon disappointing

From page A1

OCAMPO

But I have been disappointed many times," Ocampo said during a forum at the University of the Philippines College Baguio last Thursday.

"Do you really want to know what they do in Congress? They walk around and chat. When congressmen take the stand to make their privilege speeches, the rest of the House stands up and goes around the tables. No one listens to speakers," he said in Filipino.

"If they interpellate your privilege speech, then you know you've made a dent. I have been interpellated in four of my six privilege speeches which is a good batting average," Ocampo said.

Ocampo said life as an elected government official was turning out the way the mass movement had predicted it would be.

A former spokesperson for the National Democratic Front, Ocampo was a political detainee during martial law together with his wife, Carolina "Bobbie" Malay.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and its allied organizations had initiated the second People Power revolt that led to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption into power in 2001.

Although Bayan officials and members realized they were within reach of power along with the People Power Coalition, Ocampo said they opted for the "moral high ground" where left-wing organizations ran for elective posts instead of succumbing to offers for Cabinet posts.

"Only the social democrats joined the Cabinet. They are the ones enjoying (the fruit of Edsa II) right now," Ocampo said.

Ocampo helped organize the Bayan Muna party-list group, which garnered the most number of votes in the 2001 party-list election. This earned the group three seats in the House of Representatives. They are now occupied by Ocampo, Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Crispin Beltran and Gabriela chair Liza Maza.

Ocampo said the political system allowed congressional representation for the underprivileged, but it granted them only a fifth of the legislative votes, "which is not enough to outvote the majority."

He stressed that his professional life as a congressman is secondary to his life in the mass movement and that his legislative agenda are merely the fruits of the mass movement.

"*Kung sa bahay, para ka lang nagdagdag ng kuwarto* (It's just like constructing an additional room in a house)," he said.

Ocampo and Bayan Muna had recently taken center stage, after President Macapagal indirectly linked the party-list group with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, which the United States had declared as foreign terrorist organizations.

"You have the best speaker because you will get it from a 'terrorist' and you will know what terrorism is all about," Ocampo told the students. ***Vincent Cabreza, Maurice Malanes and Desiree Caluza***

8 soldiers, 16 Abus slain in Jolo encounter

From page A1

were deployed to the area immediately after the firing erupted at 6 a.m., to back up ground forces.

Tolentino said troops were giving chase and scouring the area in the direction the bandits fled.

According to Carolina, security blocks were being put up on the western side of Mount Bagsak near Talipao, the possible exit of at least 100 guerrillas on the run.

"The fighting was fierce," said a senior officer with the Southern Command, who requested anonymity. He gave no other details.

The officer said soldiers, backed by MG-520 attack helicopters and OV-10 bombers, were pursuing about 200 Abu Sayyaf guerrillas and renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front, a Muslim separatist group that signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

5,000 soldiers

About 5,000 soldiers had earlier been deployed to track down the rebels who had seized four women Jehovah's Witnesses last month and three Indonesian tug boat crew members earlier.

The troops include those trained by Americans during a six-month US counter-terrorism exercise that ended in July.

The Indonesian hostages were among four crew members of a Singaporean-owned tugboat abducted by pirates on June 17 as their vessel was passing Jolo. The fourth escaped.

The military said the kidnappers handed their captives to Muslim separatist Abu Sayyaf rebels after talks for their release bogged down.

Another armed gang linked to the Abu Sayyaf is holding four Filipino women, evangelists from the Jehovah's Witnesses group, who were among eight abducted on August 20. Two of these were freed and two male prisoners beheaded.

The United States has linked the Abu Sayyaf to Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. ***With reports from Reuters and AP***

Sabah claim council revived

From page A1

"Both sides are determined to preserve our strong and close relations," he said, adding that the solidarity among Asean nations was "strong enough to withstand occasional distresses like this one between very close partners in Asean."

Disadvantage

But Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr., chair of the foreign relations committee, said reviving the Philippines' claim to Sabah at this time would be "to our disadvantage."

"We really don't have enough ammunition to fight for our claim," he said.

Lozada said it was more important to consider protecting the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in Sabah.

"The claim is still there, but we have to approach it according to our order of priorities," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon agreed that the Sabah claim and the problem regarding the expelled Filipinos should not be tackled together.

He said the priority should be coordination with Malaysia so that some of those expelled could work again in Sabah, this time with proper travel documents.

The advisory council on Sabah will be composed of five Cabinet members led by Ople, five senators including one from the opposition, five congressmen including one from the opposition, and three private-sector representatives.

The other legislators who attended the briefing were Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.; Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Ralph Recto, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations; and Representatives Roseller Barinaga, Etta Rosales, Abdullah Dimaporo, Joel Mayo Almario and Imee Marcos.

Ramos was also present.

Ople said all the legislators in attendance agreed "to present a united stand behind the President" on addressing the problem of the expelled Filipinos.

ONE more dehydrated child, Nur Sayba, takes a Philippine Coast Guard ship in Sandakan for the trip back home. DENNIS SABANGAN

RP may send raped girl back to Sabah to testify

From page A1

humane treatment of Filipinos in detention centers appear to be true, a lot of improvements have been observed since the Philippines brought this issue to the attention of Malaysian authorities," Jaafar said in his report.

Spruced up

Ople said the mission noted how conditions at the detention centers improved after the DFA filed a diplomatic protest with Malaysia on Aug. 27 and again on Sept. 4.

"Apparently they have spruced up the detention facilities so Jaafar will like what he sees," Ople said, chuckling. "Apparently the President's policy of friendship has helped change the behavior of the Malaysians overnight. Even the cops in Sabah suddenly turned good."

Ople said the Departments of Justice and of Social Welfare and Development were documenting the expelled Filipinos' claims of abuse and maltreatment.

He said the DFA would transmit these affidavits to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad himself.

"This is the evidence they require in order to act at their end against the so-called abuses and maltreatment," Ople said.

Mahathir has ordered an investigation on the reported maltreatment of Filipinos, including the alleged rape of the 13-year-old.

He issued the order after receiving a letter from Ms Macapagal expressing her "personal outrage and that of the Filipino people" over the alleged rape of Filipino women by Malaysian police.

Don't blame us

Malaysia's envoy to the Philippines said that his country should not be blamed for the mass expulsion of Filipinos, and that the Philippine government shared responsibility for the crowding in detention camps holding them.

"What's going on is rather unfortunate, but I stand by what I have said: It is the making of the Filipino people themselves," Ambassador Mohamed Taufik yesterday told Associated Press Television News.

Taufik said the alleged maltreatment was under investigation by Malaysian authorities.

He said Philippine authorities were partly to blame for crowding in detention camps after they ignored "ample notice" of a four-month amnesty period in which foreigners living and working illegally in Malaysia were allowed to leave voluntarily.

The amnesty expired July 31 but was extended for Filipinos to Aug. 24, Taufik said.

"We've been alerting them right to the very day of the deadline," he said. "We've done our part. There is no point in blaming us when they don't want to admit they are more at fault."

Mahathir last week ordered a moratorium on the expulsion of Filipinos following a telephone call from Ms Macapagal.

"They have to make plans on how to bring back the remaining illegal immigrants (after the moratorium)," Taufik said. "They don't even have a contingency plan. That's what has been admitted by their own people here."

Taufik defended his country's new immigration law, which he said would both protect Malaysians and prevent illegal immigrants from being victimized by unscrupulous employers.

"This is not targeted against Filipinos," he said, and pointed out that despite stiff penalties and fines, the number of illegal immigrants in Malaysia had risen to a "critical level" of close to a million.

He also said he was "annoyed" by the burning of the Malaysian flag and portraits of Mahathir by Filipinos protesting the mass expulsion, but added that he understood the "more liberal" form of democracy in the Philippines.

"I think they should act rationally . . . and look at the totality of our relations with the Philippines—what we are doing, what is at stake if they were to go on further," Taufik said.

He said Malaysia, a wealthy country by Southeast Asian standards, had helped the Philippines become "more prosperous so their people will live in their own country."

He also said his government had helped in peace talks between the Philippine government and Muslim separatist rebels and in a trilateral agreement, along with Indonesia, against terrorism.

Not safe

At the Senate, Majority Leader Loren Legarda urged the government to suspend the deployment of Filipino domestic helpers to Malaysia.

Legarda noted that the alleged rape of the 13-year-old by Malaysian police in one of the detention centers in Sabah was confirmed in a hospital report.

"If this really happened, our workers, especially the women, are not safe in Malaysia," she said.

Legarda earlier filed Senate Resolution 433 seeking an inquiry into the reported sex slavery of detained Filipino women by policemen in Tawao, Malaysia.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, an average of 6,000 Filipino workers are deployed annually to Malaysia.

POEA figures showed that 6,228 Filipinos were deployed to that country last year, with service workers making up the biggest number. The others were production, construction and professional workers.

Legarda said she would ask the Commission on Human Rights to file appropriate charges against the Malaysian police for the abuse of a Filipino girl while in detention.

On another front, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta called on Malacañang to institute contingency plans to ensure the safe and smooth repatriation of undocumented Filipinos from Israel, Italy and elsewhere.

Oreta said there was a need to prepare, especially now that the global economic downturn had raised unemployment rates in areas that used to welcome foreign workers.

She said the government should pay close attention to the possibility that 200,000 undocumented Filipinos in Israel and Italy would be forced to come home.

"What we have feared long ago now looms before us," Oreta said.

"The global economic slump and the paranoia triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States has forced governments hosting Filipinos to flush out illegal workers and send them home."

Absolutely false

Former President Fidel Ramos denied reports that he turned down Ms Macapagal's request for him to talk with Mahathir regarding the fate of Filipinos in Sabah because of his supposed business interests in Malaysia.

"These are absolutely false and an evil concoction of those who want to hog the headlines at my expense," he said.

Ramos said he was prepared to go to Malaysia to intercede for Philippine interests, but only "at the proper time when the preliminaries such as the investigation of reported abuses against Filipinos have been done by Malaysian authorities."

He added: "I did not decline any request from President Macapagal-Arroyo. I just suggested that before I do so, the government and Malaysia should do their homework regarding the issues behind the deportation and alleged maltreatment." ***With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Norman Bordadora and AP***

Pinoy amok shot dead

KUALA LUMPUR—A Filipino man was shot dead after injuring five people in a rampage with a machete in Kota Kinabalu, a center for the mass expulsion of illegal immigrants from Malaysia, the local media reported yesterday.

The injured included two children and a police detective, who killed the man after being slashed with the machete, the New Straits Times reported.

The victims, aged between 2 and 48, were admitted to hospital.

No reason was given for the man's two-hour rampage in the Menggatal area of the town in Sabah, but he was found to be carrying documents in two different names, the paper said.

Thousands of Filipinos have been expelled from Sabah in recent months in a crackdown on illegal immigrants.

The crackdown has provoked complaints from the Philippines that its citizens have been badly treated in detention camps. ***AFP***

'Tabang' launched drive for evacuees

From page A1

tion partners and P5 million from the President's social fund initially allocated for Tabang evacuees.

Most of the expelled Filipinos come from depressed areas in Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan, where work opportunities are rare, compelling them to seek livelihood in neighboring Sabah.

Tabang Mindanaw III will complement the government's Operation Pagbabalik Tulong.

On Monday, Task Force Tabang Mindanaw will meet with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and several social development foundations to plan how to provide development assistance to the expelled Filipinos.

Those who wish to give money may deposit their donations to Tabang Mindanaw's bank accounts with BPI, BPI-Family Bank, RCBC, China Bank and Metrobank. Just ask the teller to forward the donation to Tabang Mindanaw's account. Check donations payable to Tabang Mindanaw can be given to the Philippine Daily Inquirer office on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City or to any of the Task Force members.

Due to logistical problems, monetary donations are preferred. But goods may be sent through GMA-7 Foundation Inc. (Menchie Silvestre at 928-4299, 928-7021 to 24 loc 310 and 287) or ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (Henry Paje at 411-0846, 416-0387).

For related concerns, you may contact the Tabang secretariat at 632-1001 to 03.

Tabang I for El Niño

Tabang Mindanaw I was launched in 1998 in response to the food crisis in Mindanao as a result of the El Niño phenomenon. With public support and Church partnership, it was able to feed 1.5 million persons, mostly indigenous peoples, and help them survive the heavy drought. It provided medical assistance to 60,000 individuals.

Since then, Tabang I has established 21 sustainable agriculture learning farms with program components of literacy and health and 59 water systems in various indigenous people's communities.

The all-out-war in Central Mindanao in 2000 paved the way for Tabang Evacuees, or Tabang II, which facilitated the release of food aid for close to 35,000 war evacuee-families, medical assistance for 21,136 individuals and psychosocial intervention for 2,626 children.

Its Integrated Return and Rehabilitation Program saw the transformation of 42 post-conflict communities in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Cotabato into "Sanctuaries of Peace" with rehabilitated farms, new livelihood and new homes.

The implementation of Tabang Mindanaw's outreach and development programs was made possible with the support of the Catholic bishops of Mindanao and their local network of partners.

Task Force Tabang Mindanaw is composed of Assisi Development Foundation, Ayala Foundation Inc., Philippine Daily Inquirer, ABS-CBN Foundation, AY Foundation Inc., GMA-7 Foundation, League of Corporate Foundations, Metrobank Foundation, Office of Ms Margie Moran-Floirendo and PISO for Unity, Peace and Progress Foundation.

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THERE'S no letup in protest actions against Malaysia, this one's on Friday at the foreign affairs office. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Waiting for 'boat people,' Sabaya right-hand man falls

From page A1

jail, Daim said he was surprised by his arrest.

As for reports that Sabaya is alive, Daim said he had no way to verify these.

He said he last saw Sabaya in April, before they decided to split to escape the heat of military operations and the presence of American soldiers in the province.

"I have not seen him since," Daim said of Sabaya. "I heard he died, and then there were reports that he's alive. Maybe he's already dead because if he's alive, he could have contacted us already."

Jabarani said security had been tightened in and around the jail.

He said additional policemen were dispatched to monitor Abu Sayyaf members who might try to meet relatives evicted from Sabah by Malaysian authorities.

The Armed Forces' Southern Command has also sent "undercover men" to the port here and in Sulu to look out for bandits among those expelled from Sabah.

During the raid on Dos Palmas, the Abu Sayyaf abducted 17 Filipinos and Americans Guillermo Sobero and Martin and Gracia Burnham. Sobero was beheaded on June 12, 2001, supposedly as an Independence Day gift to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Martin Burnham, along with Filipino nurse Edibora Yap, was killed during a military operation earlier this year in Zamboanga del Norte. Gracia Burnham was recovered and has since returned to the United States.

The teacher

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE PUZZLE that is the student is usually the easiest to solve. That is, if you are a teacher.

Pete Sampras did just that yesterday.

Sampras, 31, taught Andy Roddick, 20, a neat lesson in tennis in the US Open, transforming an army of Sampras doubters into Sampras believers once more. Sampras' 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Roddick can only come from someone with a doctorate degree. Roddick appeared like an undergraduate trying vainly to act the role of one defending a master's thesis. Pathetically, he failed.

When asked if he was bothered by pre-game talks his match against Roddick would be The Old Guard versus The New Guard, Sampras said: "No, it fired me up."

That earned applause from the crowd.

Instead of Roddick, the kid with the rocket serve, providing the fireworks, it was Sampras, the man with the unfading spirit, providing the sparks in the breezy New York night.

"I love playing in New York," said Sampras the Californian after the match. "It's awesome here."

Sampras, who won his 69th US Open match, has never lost a night game (20-0) in the US Open, a major he had won four times since his debut in 1988.

At 19, he won the title in 1990, beating the 31-year-old John McEnroe in the semifinals to arrange the championship showdown with then 20-year-old Andre Agassi.

Sampras was US Open runnerup in 2000 and 2001.

The winner of a record 13 Grand Slams is now just two matches away from winning his fifth US Open crown.

Sampras' next opponent is another member of The Young Turks Club: Sheng Schalken. In beating Chile's Fernando Gonzalez yesterday, Schalken, 26, became the first Dutch in 31 years to enter the US Open semifinals.

People belonging to The Twilight Club will root again for Sampras, now their lifetime member. Include those young enough to be their own children, but who still value the importance that senior citizens contribute to this world filled with imperfections.

The sentimentalists are an enduring lot, for they are always honest enough to cling on to that last shred of truth and reality: The elderly have as much right as the young to still savor glory. Only this time, the time zone is in the rocking chair years of their lives.

Sampras continues to teach us a lesson, not only on how to survive but also on why we need to plod on despite the odds. If only for that, he deserves our understanding.

More than our applause.

■

I was wrong. I thought the American cagers' defeat to Argentina the other day was but a temporary setback. I thought they'd win the crown in the end. With their 78-81 loss to Yugoslavia yesterday, the best the Americans can do is finish fifth.

What a shame.

If there's any lesson learned here, it is that the Americans cannot take the opposition lightly from here on. America's best were absent in the US Team; they are busy training for the next NBA season that is set to begin barely two months from now.

If you're still wondering why they lost in the World Championship in Indianapolis, you were not listening.

OK, listen up! The NBA was the culprit. Period.

Next question, please?

Sampras routs Roddick

New kid on the block simply looked awestruck

By Howard Fendrich

NEW YORK—Smacking aces at over 209 kph (130 mph), covering every inch of the net, Pete Sampras looked like the younger man Thursday and dominated an apparently awestruck Roddick, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, to reach the US Open semifinals.

And it took all of 90 minutes.

As the 31-year-old Sampras pumped his fist to celebrate a volley winner that closed the second set, fellow American Roddick, 20, flashed an admiring thumbs up and then bowed, acknowledging that his idol still has what it takes.

"This is what I play for. I was ready to go from the first point on," said Sampras, who hasn't won a tournament at any level in two years. "I'm just confident in the big moment that I'm going to come through. I spent moments of struggling with the confidence this year but I can get it back pretty quickly."

Sampras has played his best tennis of the past 24 months in the US Open, reaching the finals in 2000 and 2001. Now he's doing it again.

"You guys say Pete is washed up. I never said it," Roddick said. "I don't think anybody doubts the fact that he's capable of great tennis still."

The difference in the players' ages was obvious when they walked out on a windy night: Roddick in his shiny blue T-shirt, his spiky hair peering out from above a visor, and Sampras in his proper tennis whites, nothing covering his receding hairline.

Sampras, seeking his fifth US Open championship, will be a big favorite Saturday against No. 24 Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands, who outlasted No. 28 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2) Thursday to get to his first major semifinal.

Saturday's other semifinal is American Andre Agassi vs. defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, yet another duel between a 30-something and a 20-something.

Arthur Ashe Stadium was a sea of empty blue seats Thursday afternoon for Schalken-Gonzalez. It was packed at night for Sampras-Roddick, which didn't live up to the billing.

To put it simply: Youth was outserved. And outvolleyed, outhit and out-just-about-everything-elsed.

Asked by USA Network announcers what advice he'd give Roddick, Boris Becker said, "Get out of the stadium." *AP*

SAMPRAS (top photo) executes a backhand against Roddick (above) during their quarterfinal match yesterday in the US Open. Sampras won, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. AP

Davenport, Mauresmo blocking Sisters Act

NEW YORK—Venus and Serena Williams are on a collision course for yet another sibling Grand Slam final.

Lindsay Davenport and Amelie Mauresmo are the final obstacles to what could be the latest installment of the"Williams Show."

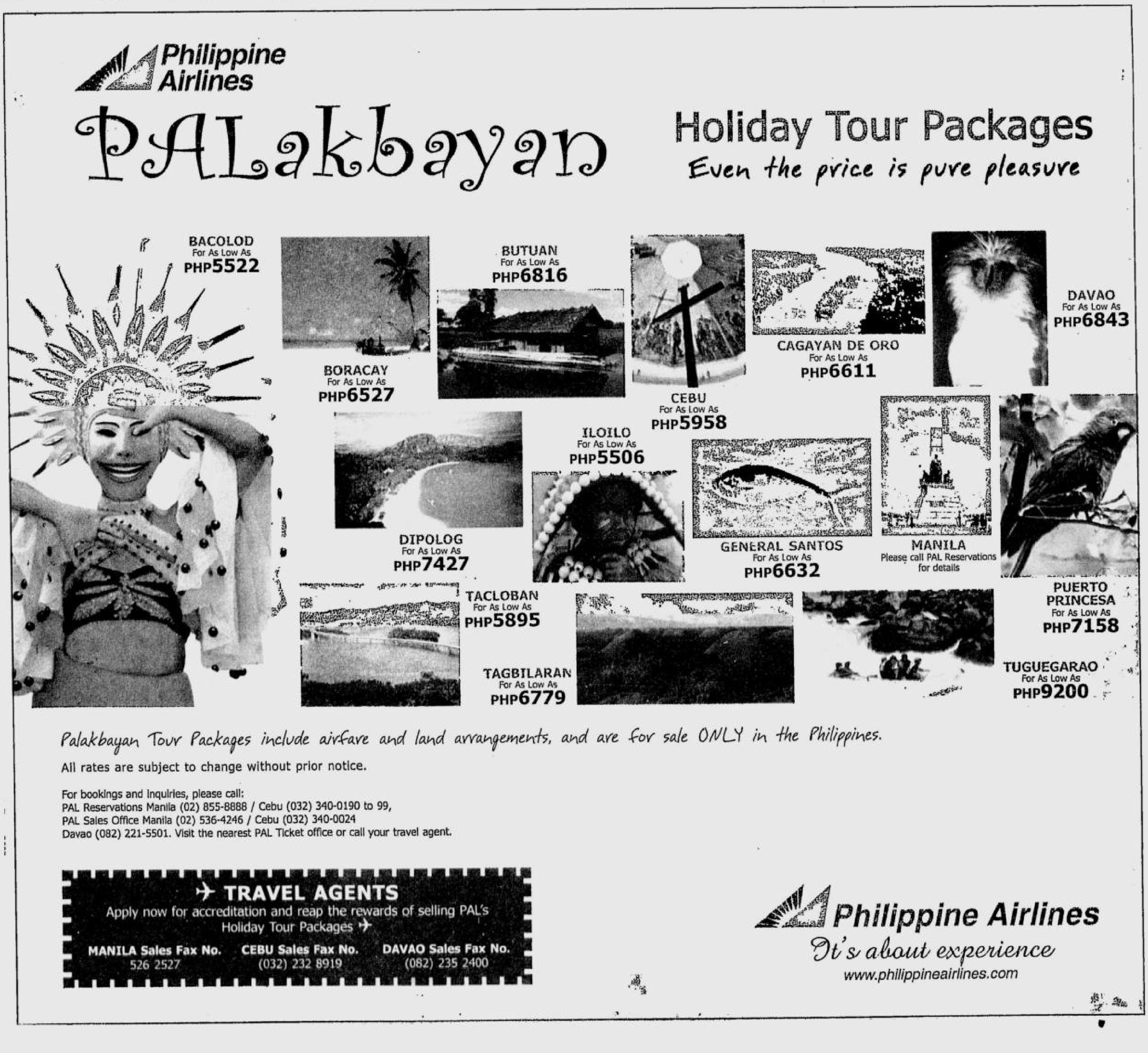
Mauresmo will be the first player to try and end the Williams sisters' Grand Slam dominance when she faces two-time defending champion Venus in Friday's first semi-final.

Davenport, who has looked solid in her comeback from knee surgery, will try to end Serena's 19-match Grand Slam winning streak in their all-American showdown. *Reuters*

Serena stalker pleads guilty

NEW YORK—A German man who traveled the globe in a fanatical attempt to win the affection of top-ranked tennis player Serena Williams pleaded guilty Thursday to a stalking charge following his arrest last weekend at the US Open.

As part of a plea agreement, Albrecht Stromeyer, 34, of Frankfurt, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree stalking, admitting he sought to make contact with Williams, the defending Wimbledon and French Open champion who is currently competing at the US Open in Queens. *AP*



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HISTORICAL EDGE

Phone Pals take Game 1

GAME TOMORROW *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

TALK N Text's intensity tore down Batang Red Bull's wall of invincibility, 102-100, last night at the start of their PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Jerald Honeycutt was nothing short of incredible but it was the Phone Pals' unyielding local crew that did wonders for the Manny Pangilinan-owned squad.

Donbel Belano, Kenny Evans, Gilbert Demape provided the hustle while Alex Crisano and Mark Telan put loads of muscle to help beat the defending champions.

"We're not the most talented but we're the best-shaped team in the league. We just came out with a lot of intensity tonight and that pulled us through," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno.

While battling the Thunder's big men inside, Honeycutt poured 22 of his 32 points in the final half as the Phone Pals dictated the tempo up to the last minute.

Julius Nwosu, Jimwell Torion and Lordy Tugade tried to fill in the void left by Tony Lang, who was virtually out-of-sync, but they fell short.

Tugade drilled three straight triples to push the Thunder to within 101-98, but wrong decisions in the end dashed their bid.

Tugade converted a twinner with three ticks left instead of shooting a potential game-tying triple.

The Phone Pals shoot for a 2-0 lead against the Thunder in their best-of-seven championship series tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals got a piece of historical edge as the winner of Game 1 in six of the last seven championships went on to win the crown.

Earlier, San Miguel Beer encountered some scary moments before beating Alaska, 88-85, to clinch third place.

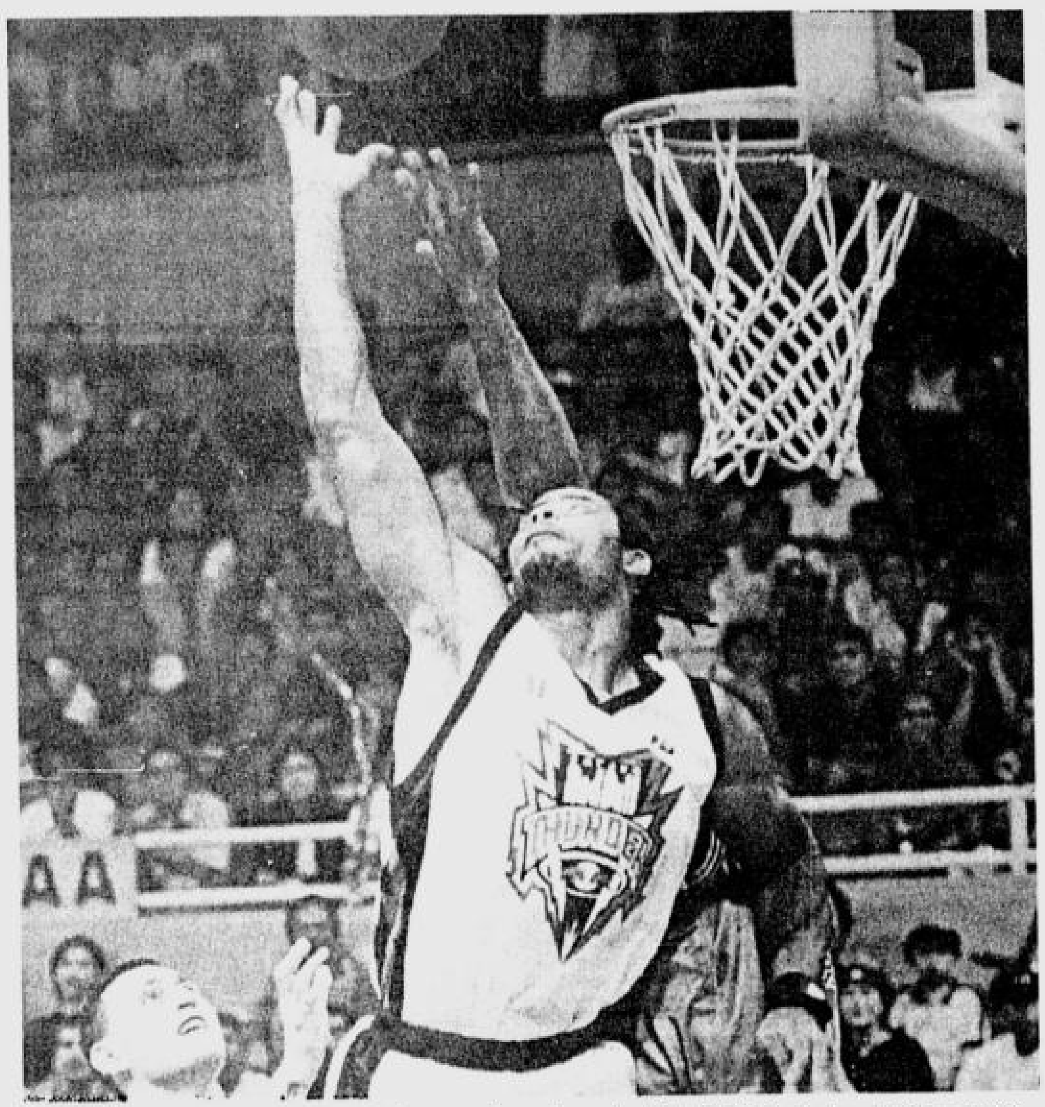
Boybits Victoria sank the marginal freethrows with 7.5 ticks left.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 102—Honeycutt 32, Mickeal 31, Evans 13, Telan 12, Belano 7, Crisano 4, Demape 3, Pablo 0, Fran 0, Lago 0.

RED BULL 100—Nwosu 22, Torion 20, Tugade 16, Lang 14, Miller 14, Harp 12, Hizon 0, Reyes 0, Villoria 0, Valenzuela 0.

Quarters: 22-26, 49-52, 78-73, 102-100



RED Bull's Julius Nwosu (middle) disputes the rebound with Talk N Text's Gerald Honeycutt (right) in Game 1 of the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals last night. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Yugos eliminate American quintet

GAMES TODAY
9-11 p.m., RPN 9
Yugoslavia vs New Zealand
1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m., Solar
Germany vs Argentina

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—One day after suffering their first international loss with National Basketball Association players, Team USA came out flat on Thursday and was stunned by Yugoslavia, 81-78, and knocked from medal contention at the World Basketball Championships.

After winning their first 58 games with NBA players on the rosters, Team USA dropped an 87-80 decision to Argentina on Wednesday.

But instead of putting Wednesday's disappointment behind them, coach George Karl's squad came out without much emotion, never pulled away and was unable to come up with a key stop in the fourth quarter.

"It is a great win when you beat a team like the United States," said Yugoslavian center Vlade Divac. "It is a big win for us because it gets us to the semi-finals and allows us a chance to reach our goal of winning this tournament.

"That is our goal, not just to beat the United States, but to win the tournament."

The best the US can finish now is fifth place with two games to play.

Other games saw Argentina whip Brazil, 78-67, Germany down Spain, 70-62, and New Zealand edge Puerto Rico, 65-63. *AFP*

Fans go wild in Belgrade

BELGRADE—Tens of thousands of celebrating Yugoslavs took to the streets of Belgrade on Friday after their country beat the United States, 81-78, in the quarterfinals of the World Basketball Championships.

Streets around the central Republic Square were filled with frenzied fans minutes after the defending world champions rallied from a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the "Dream Team" in Indianapolis.

"This is a dream come true and nothing else matters from now on," said Dejan, a 23-year old student who watched the game on a giant video-screen in the city centre.

A noisy but well-behaved 20,000 strong crowd turned up in the early hours of the morning to see the match and never gave up hope even when the game appeared to be lost. *Reuters*

CSB wins

COLLEGE of St. Benilde tripped Philippine Christian University, 83-77, yesterday and gained the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

La Salle targets 12th straight win

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	11	0
UE	9	3
Ateneo	7	5
UST	6	5
FEU	5	6
UP	4	7
Adamson	3	9
NU	1	11

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—NU vs UE
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

CAN'T blame coach Franz Pumaren for not making bold predictions regarding La Salle's determined drive to register the sweet sweep in the UAAP basketball tournament.

Pumaren, whose tactical and motivational skills are the envy of many, knows that reversal of fortunes isn't really foreign to the UAAP. After setting the league's standard for excellence by winning their first 11 games, the Green Archers must still win their last three to tie the 14-game sweep posted by University of Santo Tomas in 1993 and become the first finalist.

First in Pumaren's list is Far Eastern University. The Green Archers meet the unpredictable Tamaraws at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. University of the East, in the Final Four for the first time since 1997, tackles also-ran National University in the 2 p.m. curtain-raiser.

"Of course, we're going for the sweep. I'll be a hypocrite if I'll deny that we don't want the sweep. It's easier said than done," said Pumaren. "We need to work hard and maintain our focus."

Pumaren described FEU as a very dangerous team. La Salle dumped FEU, 85-71, in the first round but Pumaren was quick to note that "the Tamaraws could play better than that."

Selecta-RP vs Spring today

GAME TODAY *(Moro Lorenzo Gym)*
10 a.m.—Selecta-RP vs Spring Oil

IN DIRE need of more tune-up games, Selecta-RP tests the mettle of Spring Cooking Oil at 10 a.m. today at the More Lorenzo Gym in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Though the Filipinos drubbed the Taiwanese twice and split their two matches with the Melbourne Tigers, the coaching staff headed by Jong Uichico feel that they could use some more games to polish their plays and improve their coordination before embarking on their Asian Games campaign in Busan, South Korea.

The Cooking Oil Masters, honing up for the Honghe Cup International Basketball Grand Prix in Yunnan, China, could provide the Nationals quality competition gauging from the results of their own tune-up series.

Powered by seven-time PBA best import Bobby Parks, Spring Cooking Oil, the reigning national interclub titlist, also beat Chinese-Taipei, 76-72, routed Forex, 105-78, and subdued the PBL's Blu Sun Power, 93-90, in its recent matches.

Other standouts of Spring Cooking Oil, owned by national shooting champion Tac Padilla and mentored by Tito Palma, are Romel Adducul and Fil-Am Jeffrey Flowers, both standouts of the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association.

Flowers and Adducul will do battle underneath against the like of Asi Taulava, Andy and Danny Seigle, Eric Menk, Dennis Espino and Danny Ildefonso.

Selecta-RP, which also includes Jeffrey Cariaso, Kenneth Duremdes, Noy Castillo, Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela and Rudy Hatfield, winds up its Asiad preparations by facing the Qatar national team twice on Sept. 22 and 23 before leaving on Sept. 25.

The Qataris, fifth placers in the last Asian Basketball Confederation Men's Championship won by the Chinese, will be powered by slam dunking Mahmoud Yaseen Ismael Musa, who made his mark in the 1999 World Junior Championships by averaging 25 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. *Roy Luarca*

Lee tops Asian Formula round

MARCHY Lee of Vertex Motorsports overcame the challenge posed by his rivals to capture the 10th round of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge-Asian Formula 3 Cup recently at the Sepang F1 Circuit in Malaysia.

Lee bucked two re-starts and the gathering dusk to post the best aggregate time, toppling Frenchman FRD Harbour View driver Philippe Descombes and Mark Goddard of Castrol team.

Strangely, it was Descombes who took the checkered flag at the finish line but Lee eventually took the top honors after their clocking in between stoppages were added with Lee finishing with the best time of 15 minutes and 2.5 seconds.

Lee was actually holding a three-second lead after two laps but just as the racers were about to complete Lap 3, Renault driver Kenneth Ma spun out of the course and stalled, scattering debris which took 10 minutes to be cleared.

When the race re-started, mayhem again ensued when American David Louie collided with Samson Chan at the line, while Renault's Dick Lau, Siu Tit Lung, Ken Lau and Michael Choi touched wheels to trigger a pile-up.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Race Day - Belgian Grand Prix at noon (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Bell Canadian Open at 8:30 a.m. (r - 4 p.m.)on Star Sports
LPGA Wendy's Championship at 5 p.m. on ESPN
Tiger's Bridge to the Future at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN
Fred Meyer Golf Challenge at 11 p.m. on ESPN
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r - 6 p.m.) on Star Sports
SOCCER: Spanish League Highlights at 7 a.m. (r - 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
Futbol Mundial at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Football Asia at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Goals! at 10 p.m. (r) on ESPN
SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

RP Team to wear designer suits

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR GOOD luck as well as good looks, Team Philippines will get rid of its usual training get-up in favor of a stylish designer for the Asian Games.

Asiad chief of mission Tom Carrasco said it's time for a "cool change" with regard to the Nationals' appearance during international competitions.

"We no longer want to wear the usual jogging pants and jackets. It's been our get-up since we started competing in international competitions," said Carrasco. "Maybe things will change for the better if we change our appearance."

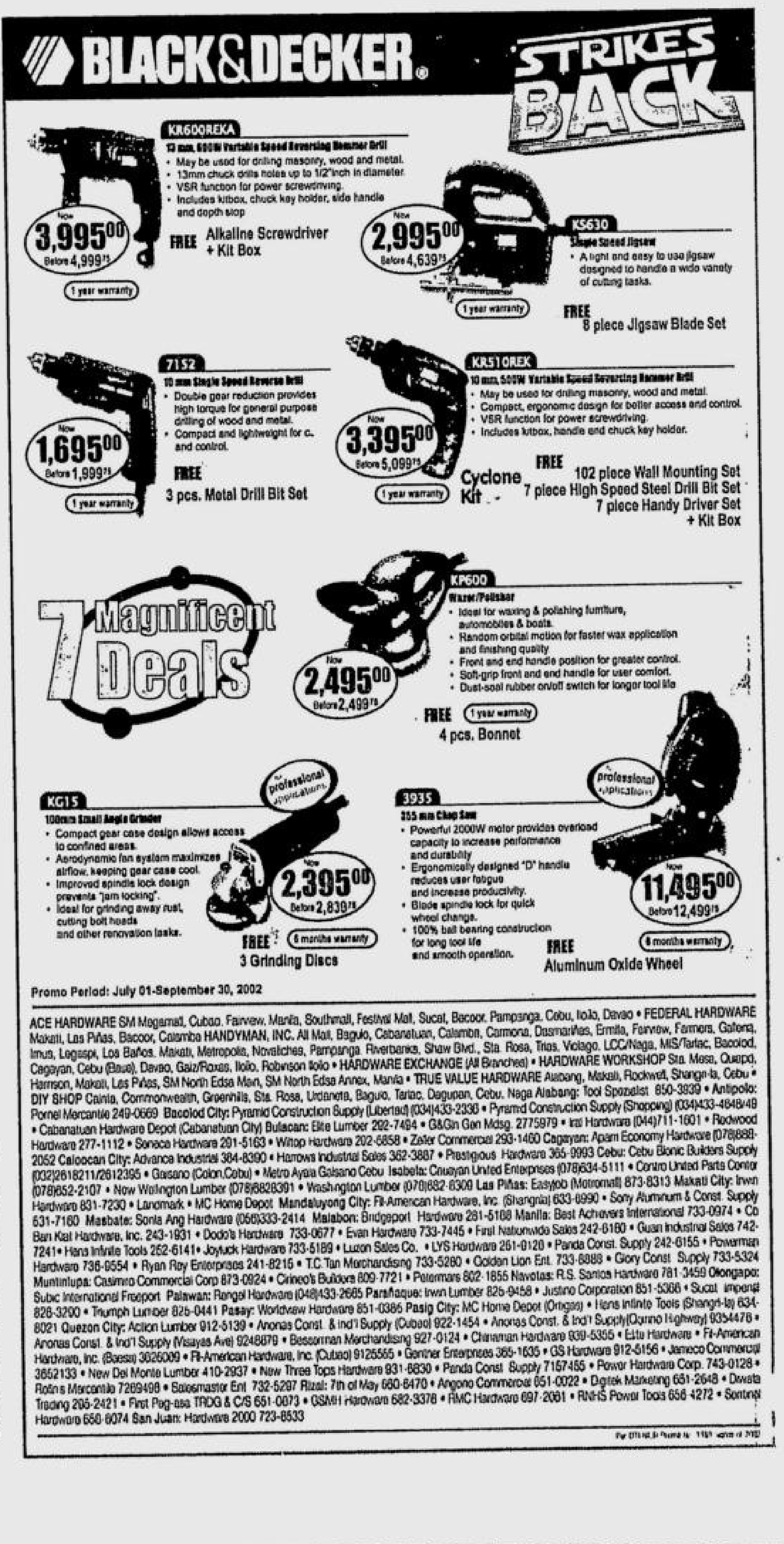
Hoping to "arrive in style," the 218 athletes and 109 officials will be wearing Rajo Laurel suits on the 3-1/2-hour flight to Busan, South Korea.

Carrasco said the men will wear dark blue jacket with red Muslim-inspired lining, while the women will wear a red blouse under their jacket plus a scarf made of Muslim-inspired fabric.

The new, trendy look just might perk up the delegation members' morale and change their luck for the better, according to Carrasco.

"Sometimes the key to winning is not just pure hard work and training," said Carrasco. "The attitude is also very important."

This marked the first time Philippine sports officials contracted a fashion designer to dress up the national athletes. The athletes themselves modeled the suits and their track uniform in a fashion show two months ago. The RP delegation will parade the same suit during the opening ceremony on Sept. 29.



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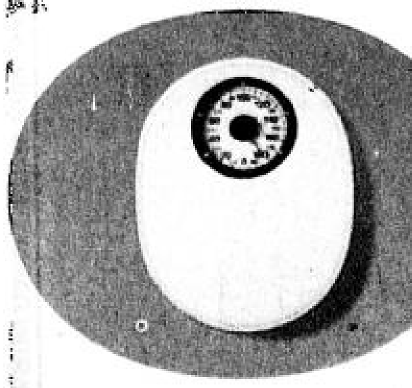

Obesity:

When being **big** is a **big problem.**

Today, obesity affects one out of five Filipinos. It is the second leading cause of preventable death after smoking and it can cause a host of other diseases like hypertension, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, arthritis, cancer and a lot more.*

The difference between **overweight** and **obesity.**

Overweight signifies an excess body weight when compared to established standards. The excess weight can be obtained from bone, fat, muscle and/or water. For example, an athlete may weigh more than what is normally considered a healthy weight, but his/her weight is due to muscle, not fat.

Obesity is having an abnormally high percentage of body fat. To be considered obese, a person must have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or greater. This means having a body weight 30% greater than the ideal weight. In obesity, bone structure and muscle mass do not play a role in the condition.

What causes **obesity?**

Studies show that obesity results from a complex interaction of genetic, behavioral and environmental factors.

- ***GENETIC***

  The tendency to be thin or heavy often runs in families. Some individuals have a genetic tendency to gain weight and store fat. Individuals with a family history of obesity may be predisposed to become obese.
- ***BEHAVIORAL***

  Overeating and lack of exercise. People gain weight when they eat more and exercise less. Exercise burns calories. If a person gets too little exercise for the amount of food he or she eats, the excess energy will be stored as fat and the person will gain weight.
- ***ENVIRONMENT***

  Our environment fosters the tendency toward obesity.
  A sedentary occupational lifestyle, an increased consumption of ready-made foods, frequent use of cars, elevators and escalators, and lack of safe outdoor places for exercise all contribute to gaining weight.

What are the risks of being **obese?**

Obesity is now considered a health hazard. It has been established as a major risk factor for serious health conditions like:

- Type 2 Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Heart Disease
- High Cholesterol
- Reproductive Problem
- Blood Clots and inflammation of the veins
- Gallstones
- Heartburn
- Arthritis
- Sleep Apnea
- Stroke
- Skin Infections
- Certain Cancers
- Breathing Problems
- Gout

Obesity Facts

- Obese children and adolescents are at a higher risk of getting high blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, compared to those with a healthy weight.
- Discrimination and mistreatment of persons with obesity is widespread and often considered socially acceptable.
- Persons with obesity are victims of employment and other discrimination, and are penalized for their condition.
- A person has an 80% chance of becoming obese if both parents are obese.
- A person has a 40% chance of becoming obese if one parent is obese.
- A person has a less than 10% chance of becoming obese if neither parent is obese.

What you can do about **obesity.**

Developing good eating and exercise habits in childhood throughout adulthood may be the best way to prevent obesity for people who have a family history of excess weight. The following are lifestyle tips suitable for people of all ages.

- Implement a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and grains for your entire family.
- Avoid eating fast. Eating too quickly does not allow enough time for digestion and to feel a sense of fullness.
- Avoid other activities during mealtimes such as watching TV.
- Avoid foods that are high in calories, fat or sugar.
- Have snack foods available that are low-calorie and nutritious like fruits, vegetable sticks and yoghurt.
- Avoid serving portions that are too large.
- Limit the frequency of fast food eating.
- Avoid using food as a reward or the lack of food as punishment.
- Get regular, moderate exercise.
- For short trips, walk instead of using your car.
- Use the stairs more frequently.

Find out if you're **overweight** or **obese!**

Calculate your Body Mass Index (BMI)

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a way to know if you weigh more than what is healthy for you. Your BMI is based on your height (in inches or meters) and weight (in pounds or kilograms).

To calculate your exact BMI, use one of the following equations:

- If you know your weight in pounds and your height in inches:
  BMI = (pounds x 700)/(inches squared)
- If you know your weight in kilograms and your height in meters:
  BMI = kilograms/(meters squared)

(Ideal BMIs are 19.1 to 27.3 for women and 20.7 to 27.8 for men)

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for the Study of
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Member - International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO)

8th Annual Convention

Controversies in Obesity Management

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The Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO) is a non-stock, non-profit organization made up of health care professionals dedicated in the study of obesity in the Philippines. It was organized in 1994 to address the growing global problem of obesity, which has been noted to affect Filipinos. Its purpose is to extend and disseminate knowledge about obesity and move society to recognize it as a disease and take preventive action and treatment.

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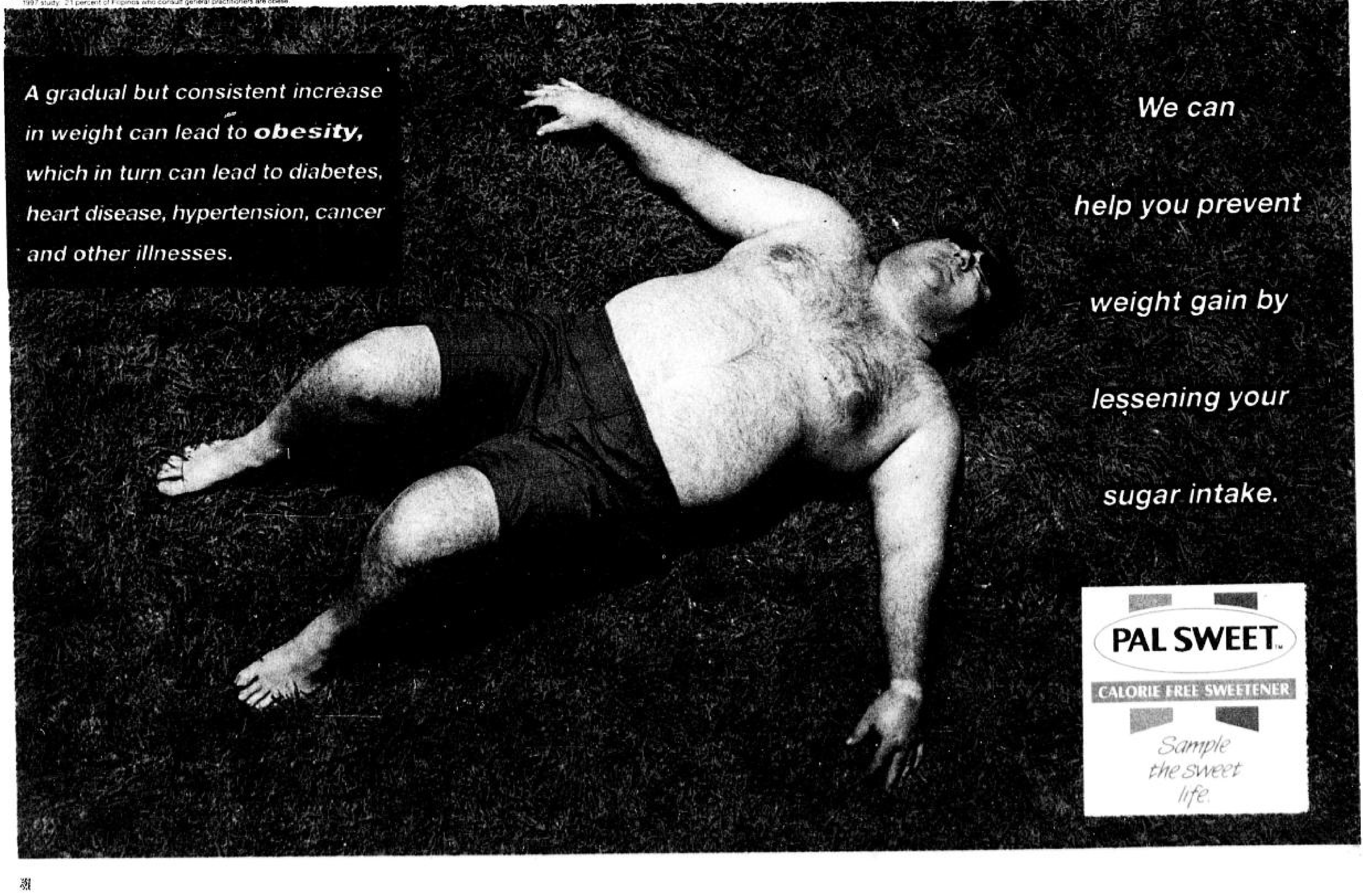

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* Based on PASOO (Philippine Association in the Study of Overweight and Obesity) 1997 study: 21 percent of Filipinos who consult general practitioners are obese.

Lewis surrenders crown

LONDON—Lennox Lewis has given up his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title because he has no interest in a mandatory defense against No. 1 Chris Byrd, the heavyweight champion said on Thursday. *Reuters*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

	FOUR DIGIT	MEGALOTTO 6/45
Luzon	0 7 9 2 (In exact order)	14 17 20 21 23 26
Vis-Min	3 6 3 5	SUERTRES 0 4 4

FIGHT POSTPONEMENT

Strip Tokuyama of his title—Salud

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

RUDY Salud, the lawyer-manager of Gerry Peñalosa, will know by today if the World Boxing Council will strip WBC superflyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama of his title.

In a letter, the feisty, former commissioner of the Philippine Basketball Association, asked WBC president Jose Sulaiman to strip the Japan-based North Korean of his title.

Salud said he did that because he was disgusted by the move of Tokuyama's camp to postpone the Nov. 8 title fight to January 2003.

"Postponing the fight to Jan. 7 will mean that Peñalosa will spend the months of November and December in Los Angeles (USA) training under Freddie Roach, and away from his family on Christmas and New year," Salud said in his letter. "This is clearly a good tactical move for them but very unfair overall."

Salud said the postponement from the original date of the title fight on Nov. 8 to more than a month is "detrimental not only to Gerry but to boxing as well."

He told Sulaiman that if Tokuyama, claiming hand injury, cannot meet Peñalosa on Nov. 8 as the fight contract so stipulates, Tokuyama should be stripped of his crown.

"Peñalosa should be given a new opponent to dispute the crown, with the winner facing Tokuyama in January, the date that Tokuyama's camp wants their boy to fight," said Salud.

Salud also reminded Sulaiman that it was Sulaiman himself who mandated the rematch to be held September 2002 during the WBC convention in Bangkok last November.

"I had allowed Tokuyama to fight last August so that his defense against Gerry was moved to November from September," said Salud. "I believe Mr. Sulaiman is a just and honorable person. He will listen to my plea."

In that Bangkok WBC convention, Sulaiman upheld Salud's protest that Tokuyama head-butted his way to victory over Peñalosa in their first meeting in Yokohama last year.

Below is Salud's letter to Sulaiman in full:

Dear Don Jose:

"I feel rather hesitant running again to you (but who else?) to complain about the new postponement being proposed by the Japanese side of the Nov. 8th Tokuyama-Peñalosa superflyweight championship in Osaka.

"If you will recall, Tokuyama was mandated by the WBC during its December 2001 Bangkok convention to defend against Peñalosa on or before September 2002, which is one year from the disputed title fight between these two in September 2001 at Yokohama, Japan. Tokuyama was however given authority to have up to two title fights before the deadline which he took advantage of by first defending his title against Kazuhiro Ryuko on March 23, 2002.

SALUD

"Thereafter, Tokuyama's handlers sought permission for a second title defense on a date rather close to September 2002 presumably to be held in North Korea against Erick Lopez but which was later transferred to Tokyo for Aug. 26, 2002. I agreed to the step-aside arrangements on the persistent request of our friend, Joe Koizumi, who explained that Mr. Kanazawa had already incurred expenses and other commitments re the Erick Lopez bout. But the assurance by Mr. Kanazawa thru Mr. Joe Koizumi in writing was very firm that there would be no postponement of the Nov. 8th Tokuyama-Peñalosa championship, which assurance was very strongly reiterated when the initial Aug. 3rd Tokyo date was finally transferred "to Aug. 26th.

Now, they are talking of postponing the fight from Nov. 8th to (horrors) Jan. 7, 2003. They claim some kind of injury on the left hand of Tokuyama. Of course, a medical certificate from a Japanese doctor will be produced to support the so-called injury.

"Postponing the fight to January 7th will mean that Peñalosa will spend the months of November and December in LA training under Freddie Roach and away from his family on Christmas and New Year. This is clearly a good tactical move for them but very unfair overall.

"Mr. Kanazawa, thru his authorized representative Joe Koizumi, and I have a firm agreement tantamount to a perfected contract. We have agreed in writing on the exact purse, hotel accommodations, venue of fight, date of fight and even on the exact terms and conditions of the Option fight in the event of a Peñalosa victory on Nov. 8th. The only reason we have withheld signing the WBC championship contract was because we agreed to finish the August 26th Lopez title defense.

"For all legal intents, therefore, Tokuyama is bound to fight Peñalosa on Nov. 8th, or if postponed, to a date not more than two weeks therefrom in accordance with normal boxing practices, or in more serious cases, within a reasonable period from the original Nov. 8th agreement. Definitely, January 2003 is unreasonable so much so that if Tokuyama truly needs this long period of inactivity, his title should already be withdrawn from him and a championship between Peñalosa and a WBC approved opponent be immediately authorized. The winner will fight Tokuyama in January if Tokuyama shall have recovered by then, otherwise the new champion shall be free to defend his title against another challenger approved by your goodself.

"The above suggestion may sound but Tokuyama's mandatory defense deadline expired in September 2002 and their side continues to take the WBC mandate rather lightly.

"Thank you, Don Jose, and please pardon me for burdening you with additional problems."

Pagcor supports 'Matira'

MATIRA Matibay II got a big boost yesterday with the commitment of support given by the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) headed by Efraim Genuino.

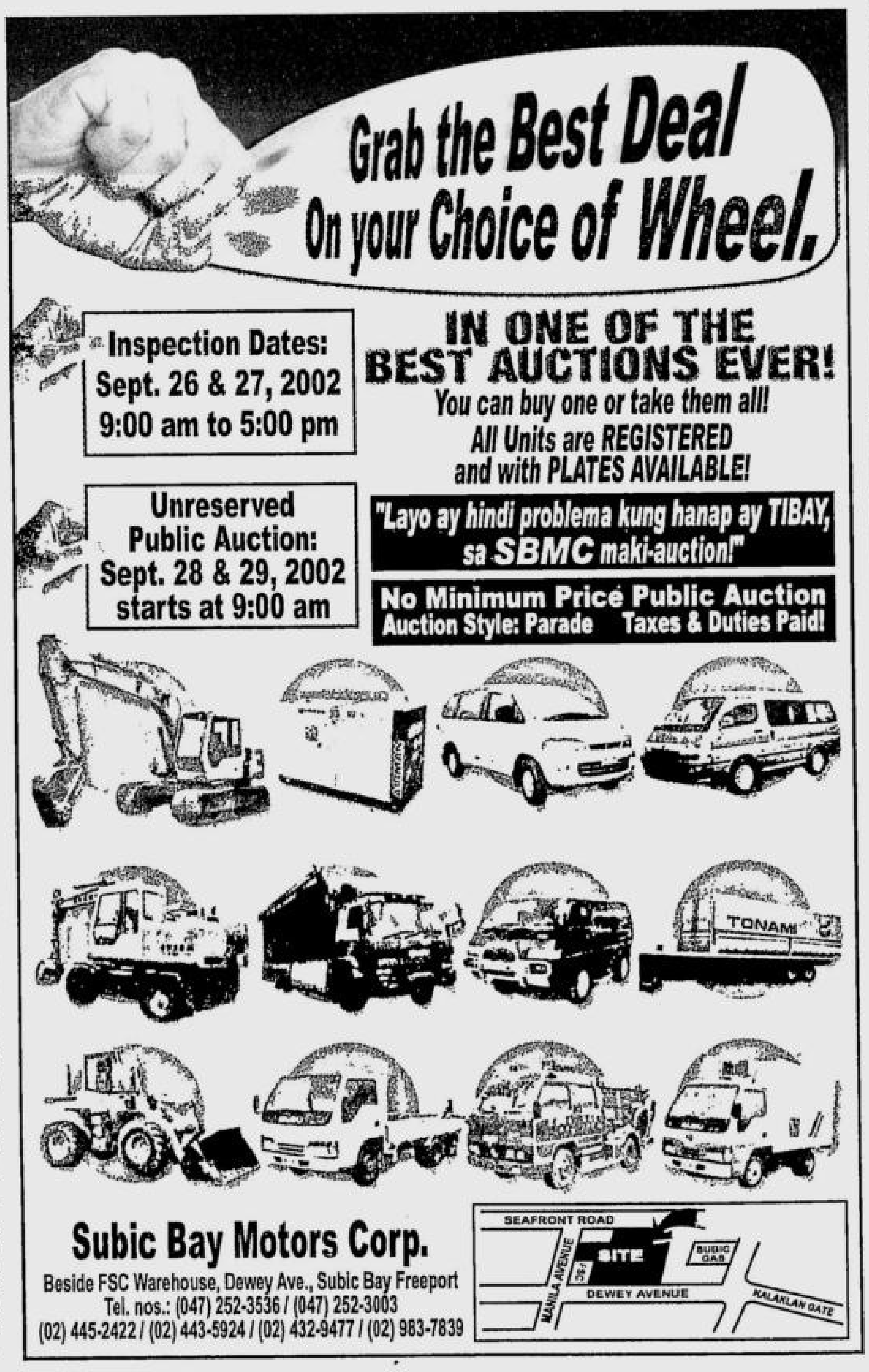
Topbilled by the World Boxing Council international minimum championship between Filipino Ernesto Rubillar and Thailand's Phalangchai Sor Vorapin, the fight card originally scheduled Aug. 30 has been moved to Sept. 18 after Rubillar suffered an injury a few days before the fight.

Also on tap is the World Boxing Organization AsPac light fly championship between Roy Doliguez and Jovan Presbitero and the Philippine lightweight championship between Arex Montalban and Tirso Albia.

Matira Matibay II is being supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Family Toothpaste, Lotus Garden Hotel, City Garden Suites and National Sports Grill.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, University of Baguio beat 15 teams to win top honors in the Mapua Invitational Youth Team Judo tournament at Intramuros, Manila. Also today in 1992, Rikki DyLiacco clocked 1:10.49 to bag his eighth title in the 10th leg of the Race Motorsports Club Shell TMO Slalom Showdown at the Folk Arts Theater parking lot.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BIKE FOR LIFE

THE BIKE FOR LIFE journey of hope continued today as the cancer warriors pedaled from Tuguegarao to Pagupud, biking a total of 150 km. Starting out at the town of Callo, Cagayan at 9 a.m., the team rode for 7.5 hours, reaching Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte at 6:30 p.m.

SEPT 7

Riding through flat roads, rolling hills and going through mountain passes, the bikers endured long hours of non-stop pedaling, the message of hope burning strong in their hearts. They were rewarded with good and cooperative weather, providing the much needed shade from the sun.

As always, the support of the PNP, through the Aparri Command was ever present, riding with the bikers along the way.

The team was welcomed at Villa Del Mar Pagudpud.

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For donations and inquiries about the "Cancer Warrior Fund" call 551-4588 / 551-1650 or visit www.c-warriors.org. Donate through Metrobank Account Number 007168509240, Cancer Warriors Foundation. For more information on how to fight cancer by early detection, call the Philippine Cancer Society Hotline at 734-2131.

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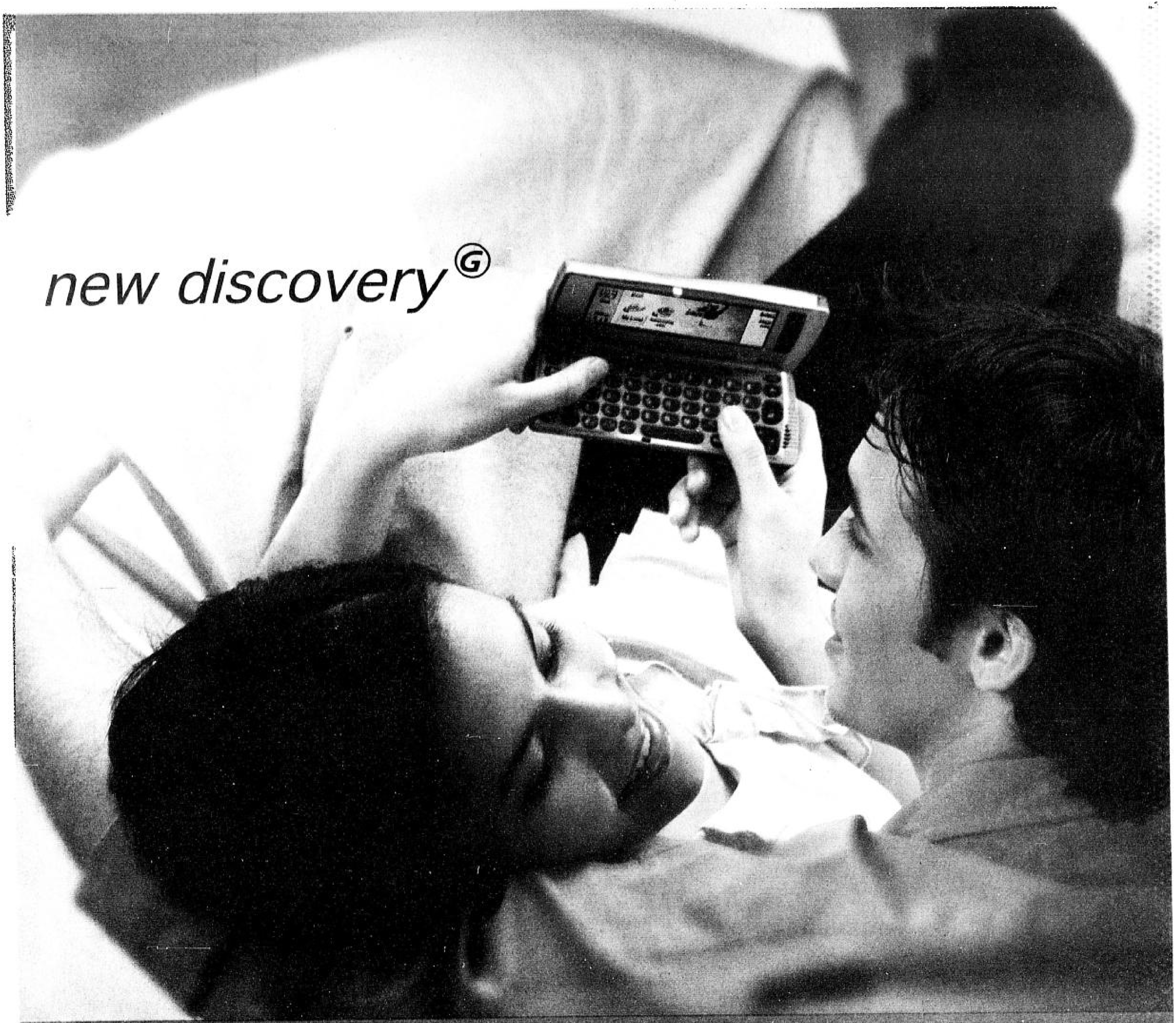

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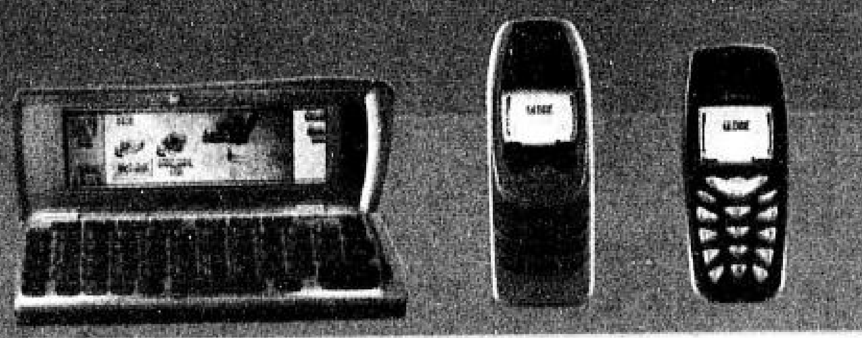

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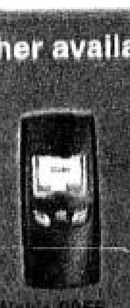
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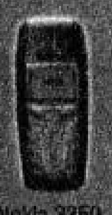
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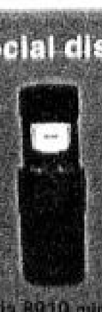
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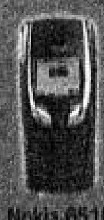
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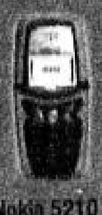
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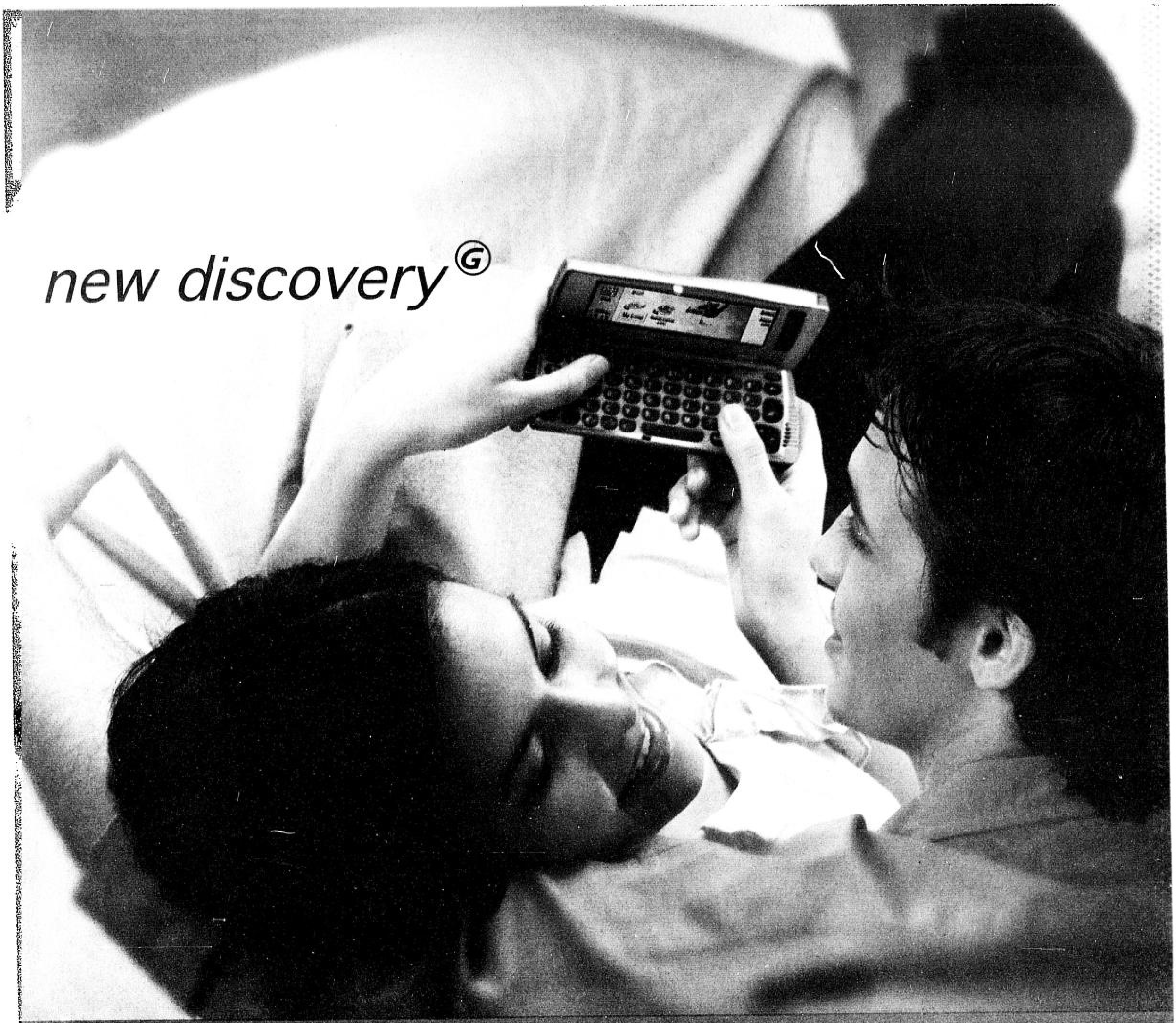

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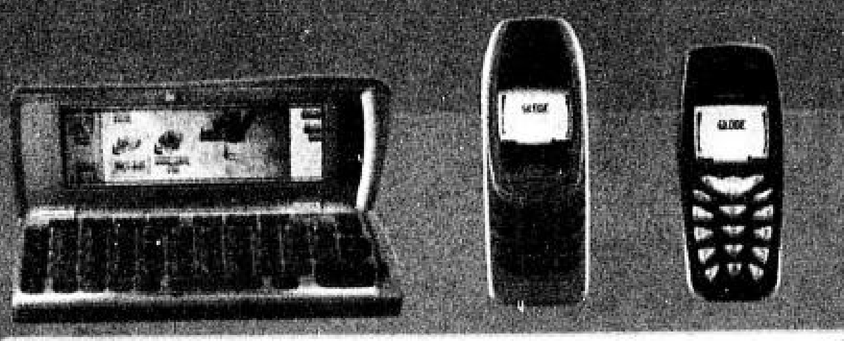

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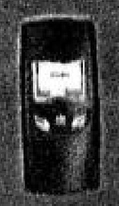
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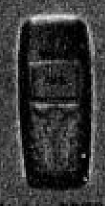
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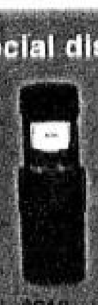
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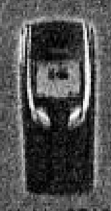
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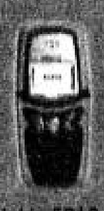
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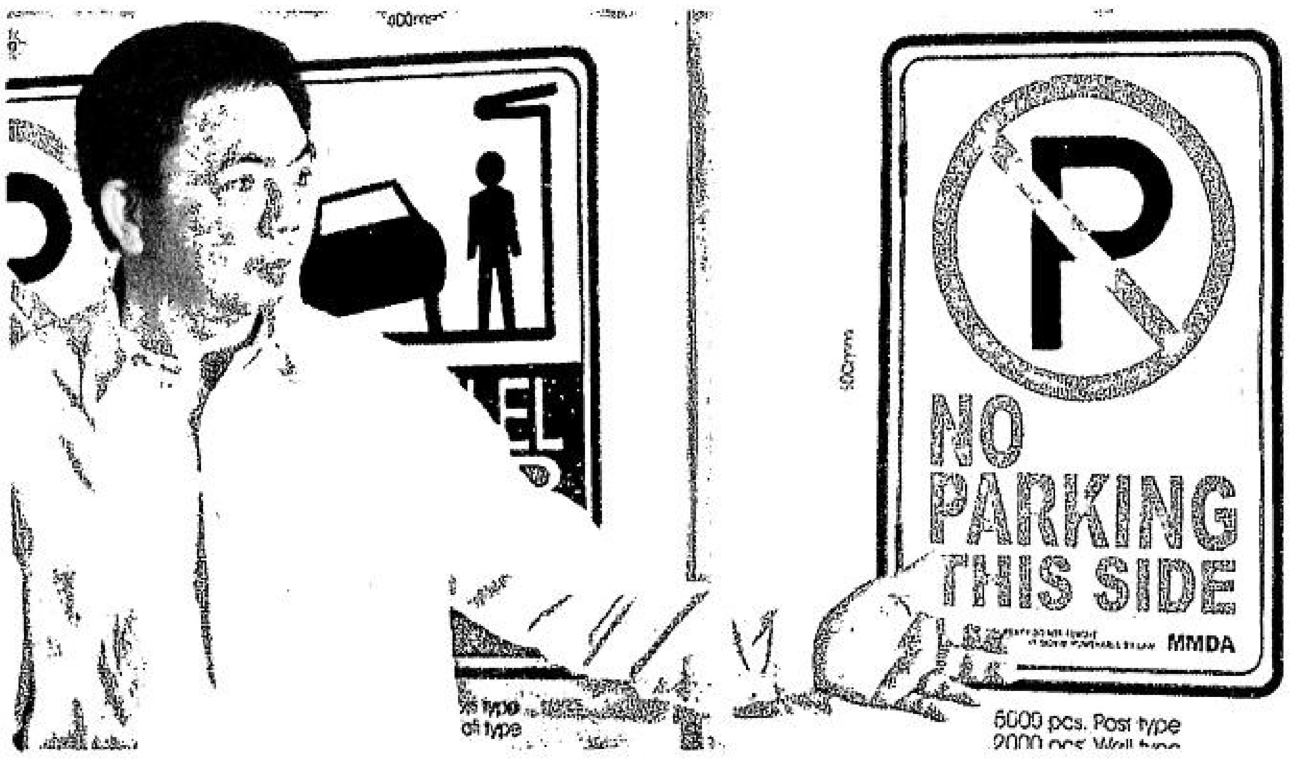
■ Quezon City court clears businessman of drug raps /A31

METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

■ NBI still has no case against ex-Isafp chief /A26

Fernando: I respect mayors' decision



"THERE can't be any middle ground," Fernando says of his clean-up campaign.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Christian V. Esguerra, Jerome Aning and Leila B. Salaveria

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who is waging a growing battle in trying to ease traffic congestion in the metropolis, said the MMDA would not operate in areas where mayors insist on imposing their own policies on illegal sidewalk vendors.

The MMDA chair was particularly referring to Manila where Mayor Lito Atienza has been implementing an "organized vending system" which allows vendors to stay on sidewalks (*See related story, Page A27*).

Fernando made this clear even as two Metro Manila mayors—Atienza and Mandaluyong's Benhur Abalos Jr.—promised to attend a militant-group sponsored forum where alternative options regarding the vendors will be discussed.

"We don't operate there," Fernando said of Manila. "He (Atienza) is the mayor so I respect his decision."

But he warned that policies like Atienza's would never solve the widespread problem of illegal vending in Metro Manila.

He said sidewalks must be cleared of all obstructions and vendors should return to markets to improve the traffic flow and ensure the safety of pedestrians.

"This campaign should not be selective," he said. "There can't be any middle ground."

He said Atienza's proposal has been proven to be "leading nowhere" since illegal vendors have virtually taken over key areas in Manila.

Carriedo, which leads to the Quiapo Church, has long been closed to traffic after vendors were allowed to occupy the middle of the street.

Divisoria is as chaotic as it was before despite occasional anti-vending campaigns by the Manila city government.

In a recent interview, Fernando had said Atienza's proposal to organize vendors into cooperatives and give them portions of the street would place the public at the losing end.

Atienza yesterday stressed that the Manila

FERNANDO/A29

NHI declares Mehan Gardens historical landmark

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute has declared the Mehan Gardens in Manila a national historical landmark, finally ending the debate about its historical significance in the face of the city government's plans to built a school on the site.

"(T)he Mehan gardens is part of Manila's rich cultural history and remains to this day a witness...to the country's historic urban patterns and park systems since the Spanish colonial period," said NHI Resolution No. 8.

The resolution was approved Aug. 14 by NHI board chair Ambeth Ocampo and members Corazon Alvina, National Museum director; Prudenciana Cruz, National Library chief; Serafin Quiazon and Heidi Gloria.

According to presidential decrees 260 and 1505, the modification, destruction or even the repair of any national shrine, monument and landmark classified as historical by the NHI is prohibited without the prior written permission of the NHI chair.

Manila-based conservationist Tina Testa lauded the NHI declaration. "We hope this settles once and for all the disputes on the Mehan's historical importance," she said.

The NHI has always maintained that the Mehan is historical, citing the marker installed in 1934 by the NHI's predecessor, the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee.

But this was not recognized by City Hall when it approved last year the construction of the Park N Ride complex and the new City College of Manila on the park grounds.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources sided with the NHI and cancelled the environmental compliance certificates of the two projects.

City Hall, however, is bent on building the CCM on the park and is currently negotiating with the NHI for a mutually acceptable design.

The Mehan, according to the NHI, is the site of the old Parian, the trade center of Chinese merchants that flourished from the late 16th to 18th century.

It was also part of the Jardin Botanico, which was established in 1858 as Manila's first botanical and zoological garden.

Jardin Botanico was renamed Mehan in 1913 after the American colonial sanitation chief and park superintendent.

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NBI still has no case against ex-Isafp chief

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday said that former military intelligence chief Galileo Kintanar has acquitted himself on allegations that he was involved in the murder of actress Nida Blanca.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI spokesperson on the Blanca murder, said NBI agents interviewed the former Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) chief last week and found no incriminating evidence against him.

"The bureau has no evidence against (Kintanar) so no case has been filed against him, as of now," Diaz told reporters.

He said Kintanar has the right against self-incrimination, so the NBI agents did not go on fishing expeditions when they interviewed the retired general.

Diaz said the bureau asked Kintanar about the claims that some of the people linked to the murder worked under him.

One of them is security guard Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez who testified that he, engineer Vicente "Dodong" Polinar, and self-confessed killer Philip Medel Jr. tailed Blanca a month before her murder.

"He (Rodriguez) is a helper of Gen. Kintanar," said Director Reynaldo Gualberto, chief of the national police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Rodriguez told investigators that Polinar bought an old Mitsubishi Gallant, which was used in the surveillance operation on Blanca.

Rodriguez allegedly drove the Gallant, while Polinar and Medel tailed the actress.

"According to one of the witnesses, Medel would put his Narcom (Narcotics Command) ID on (the rearview mirror) whenevery they parked the car so that the police would not apprehend them," said Lolifo Utitco, NBI deputy director for special investigation.

Polinar is at large and is believed to be in Bukidnon. The Gallant is allegedly with him, the NBI said.

Although Rodriguez was one of the three men who cased Blanca, he has apparently become a state witness.

An NBI source said Rodriguez approached the bureau after somebody tried to kill him.

After Blanca's murder, Polinar allegedly told Rodriguez to go home to Tarlac and cool off, the source said.

But he reportedly panicked after a man nearly hacked him to death a few months ago. Rodriguez survived the attack and sought the NBI's help.

The source said a case has been filed against the witness' assailant, but the NBI is not sure if the attack is related to the Blanca murder.

Kintanar's name was linked to the case after another witness in the murder complained that the general's men were harassing him.

Witness Rogelio Salutin, a security guard, said he had to go into hiding earlier this month after two men identified with Kintanar went to his apartment asking for him.

Salutin was the guard who allegedly saw principal suspect Rod Lauren Strunk meet with Medel in an apartment which Kintanar owned.

Kintanar's name was first dragged into the case last year because Medel rented an Quezon City apartment which the general allegedly owned.

His name was again linked to the Blanca murder this year after two witnesses, retired Army Major Pedro Pates Jr. and Leonilo Gonzaga, testified that they heard a retired Col. Benny Letrondo suggest during a meeting at the Kintanar's residence that they had better think of "an effective damage control" to keep Kintanar's name from being dragged into the case.

But Kintanar had denied he had anything to do with the murder.

"Whoever is saying these things should come out," Kintanar said in a radio interview last month. "I have nothing to do with that, that damage control or whatever. Whoever gave this (information) should try to examine their sources."

A PLAINCLOTHESMAN is shown leading away Alvin Aquino, 20, and Renato Carino, 19, shortly after they were arrested in Baguio City for the murder of a German man in Quezon City (see story below).

VAL HANDUMON

Juday's brother hurt in QC road accident

By Alcuin Papa

ACTOR Jeffrey Santos, brother of actress Judy Ann Santos, cheated death on Thursday when he figured in a vehicular accident in Quezon City.

Santos, 30 of Susana Heights, Diliman, Quezon City, is still under observation at an undisclosed hospital.

According to PO3 Ronquillo Maano, the accident occurred at around 4 a.m. Thursday on Quezon Avenue in front of the William Uy Co. building in Quezon City.

The actor was driving his Honda Civic (UHS-165) on his way to Edsa when he lost control of his vehicle and smashed into an acacia tree on the center isle.

Police said the actor was lucky to escape from the accident because the car was seriously damaged. Santos was said to have come from a taping and was probably tired and lacked sleep.

Bystanders in the area immediately took the actor to a hospital for treatment.

2 in German's slay nabbed in Baguio

QUEZON City policemen arrested in Baguio City two more suspects in the slaying of a German consultant of Meralco last week.

Central Police District Director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor said his men learned that Renato Carino, 19, of BIR Road, Quezon City and Alvin Aquino, 20, of Sampaloc, Manila, were hiding out in Baguio City after they allegedly killed German Mirko Mueller on Aug. 29.

Tor said Senior Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza led a team to Baguio City and, on Wednesday, discovered that the suspects were staying at a house in Santo Niño Subdivision, Barangay Bagaquin.

The lawmen also recovered some of Mueller's personal belongings when they arrested the suspects around 6 a.m.

Last Sunday, Jaraza's team also found Mueller's Nissan Sentra (USD-666) which the suspects used to escape after the gruesome murder at the victim's home in Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City. The car was found abandoned near a cemetery on Magsaysay Road, Cordon, Isabela.

Charges of robbery with homicide and car theft will be filed against the suspects before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Alcuin Papa

Mayors may get the power to hire, fire cops—but not quite

By Leila Salaverria

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said Metro Manila mayors will be given the power to hire and fire policemen—"indirectly."

"The power to hire and fire will be given to them in a modified way," Lina said yesterday at the National Police Commission's 36th anniversary.

But he quickly added that the situation is not like in "the old regime," where policemen "were under the total control of the mayors."

According to Lina, the executive order will strengthen the hiring prerogatives of the mayors by requiring that no police officer is recruited without the mayor's recommendation.

As for the power to dismiss a lawman, Lina said the mayors will still have to go through the People's Law Enforcement Board, which he said can now order the dismissal of a police officer.

"The PLEB can dismiss erring policemen, and the dismissal is executory," Lina told reporters yesterday.

Lina also said that the final draft of the executive order has already been submitted to Malacañang for approval.

Metro Manila mayors have earlier asked for full control over the police, especially the power to hire and fire lawmen. They said it would help them better govern their areas of jurisdiction. The president has granted the mayors' request and asked Lina to draft an executive order.

Lina has said that the mayors already have "awesome" powers under the present law, but the mayors have contested this, saying they are mere "paper tigers."

Metro Manila mayors have criticized Lina after he said that the mayors would be held responsible for illegal gambling activities in their areas of jurisdiction.

The Napolcom, which Lina also chairs, has suspended seven top police officials for their perceived failure to curb illegal gambling.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 7, 2002
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 4:6-15
Gospel: Lk 6:1-5

One Sabbath, Jesus was going through the corn fields and his disciples began to pick heads of grain crushing them in their hands for food. Some of the Pharisees asked them, "Why do you do what is forbidden on the Sabbath?" Then Jesus spoke, "Have you never read what David did when he and his men were hungry?" He entered the house of God, took and ate the bread of the offering and even gave some to his men, though only priests are allowed to eat that bread." And Jesus added, "The Son of Man is Lord and rules over the Sabbath."

Commentary

Jesus' action as a sign of the presence of God's reign is shown by Luke to be done with authority even over Jewish institutions like the Sabbath: "The Son of Man is Lord and rules over the Sabbath."

The Sabbath was one of the basic practices of Judaism, which eventually became even a symbol of its identity as a people. Like an institution in society or in any religion, the Sabbath serves a purpose only if it promotes human life. Luke puts this saying between two interventions of Jesus on a Sabbath; humans before institutions, no matter how sacrosanct the institutions might be! Where are our priorities?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)--"Good reasons" for execution pending appeal--If in the mind of the court, taking into consideration the facts and circumstances surrounding the case, good reasons exist, the exercise of the power to issue immediate execution of the judgment cannot be considered as grave abuse of discretion. Provided there are good reasons for execution according to the judgment of the trial judge, such judgment should generally not be interfered with, modified, controlled, or inquired into by the appellate court; the latter should generally not substitute its way of thinking for of the trial court, otherwise, the discretionary power given the trial court would have no meaning. The appellate court may, however, interfere with that discretion lodged in the trial court only in case of grave abuse or in case conditions have so far changed since the issuance of the order as to necessitate the intervention of the appellate court to protect the interests of the parties against contingencies which were not or could have not been contemplated by the trial judge at the time of the issuance of the order. [Reference: City of Manila v. Court of Appeals, 72 SCRA 98 (1976)] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Fortune Guarantee and Insurance Corporation v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 110701, March 12, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

LLDA: Rizal town dump poses risks to Laguna Lake

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DUMPSITE in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal is posing a high risk of contaminating the drinking water of the town, according to the Laguna Lake Development Authority which has recommended the closure of the facility.

LLDA chief legal officer Tess Oledan yesterday said the facility failed a series of tests to determine its compliance with waste water quality standards. The latest test was conducted on Aug. 9.

"My personal recommendation is for the closure of the dumpsite," Oledan told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The dumpsite's closure could worsen the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

The facility accommodates about 2,500 tons of the 6,000 tons of garbage Metro Manila produces daily.

Pasay, Parañaque, Pateros, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Manila, Taguig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Pasig dump their garbage mainly in Rodriguez town.

"But we still have to follow due process so we will give the Rodriguez government 15 days to explain why the dumpsite should not be closed," Oledan said.

In June, she said the LLDA issued a notice of violation to the Rodriguez government following complaints by residents that the garbage facility had been endangering the environment and contaminating their drinking water.

The following month, the LLDA found out that the dumpsite violated waste water quality requirements and ordered the local government to comply with the standards within 30 days.

But the facility still failed the tests last August, prompting the LLDA to consider the dumpsite's closure.

"We will in no way compromise the environmental integrity of Laguna de Bay," LLDA general manager Calixo Cataquiz said in a statement.

An abusive affluent customer

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHOEVER invented the saying, "The customer is always right," did not foresee that some customers could be very abusive.

Maricel A. Rabina, a 20-year-old *provinciana* who tends a sandwich store at a posh building in Makati City, was hit on the head with a food tray by a female customer recently.

What did she do wrong? The customer was irritated by the noise made by the store servers and the way Maricel wrapped the sandwich she had ordered.

* * *

The working student from Alaminos, Pangasinan, didn't mind the physical pain inflicted on her as much as the bruise on her dignity.

She was crying like a baby when she came to my office at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo." She was only appeased when I told her my public service program would help her file criminal and civil cases against the customer.

She was looking for sympathy. She got it from my "Isumbong" all-woman staff.

* * *

She identified her oppressor as a certain Tina Cuerva, a member of an exclusive The Spa health club at the RCBC Plaza building on Ayala Avenue and Buendia Street, Makati.

Cuerva's behavior does not match her good looks. Maricel describes her as a woman in her mid-30s with an angelic face, tall and slim, and elegantly dressed. She spoke English fluently.

In fact, Maricel said, Cuerva berated her in English before hitting her head with the food tray.

* * *

From Rabina's account, Cuerva belongs to the affluent class and is well educated.

But it seems she is misusing her high education in dealing with fellow human beings, especially those in the lower class.

Miss Cuerva, you should go back to a school that teaches good manners and right conduct!

Sayang lang ang mataas na pinag-aralan mo!

* * *

The incident happened inside the Subway sandwich store on the third floor of the RCBC Plaza in the afternoon of Aug. 24.

Maricel said Ms Cuerva entered the store with a sour face. Cuerva probably had had a bad day at the office, at home, or had a quarrel with her husband or boyfriend, if I may say so.

She began berating the servers for talking aloud and then vented her ire on Maricel for the way she wrapped the sandwich she had ordered, according to the poor woman.

* * *

Ms Cuerva, if you treat a store clerk that way, you probably give your domestics worse treatment!

I won't be surprised, Ms Cuerva, if some day one of your maids stabs you in your sleep.

If you don't mend your ways, you'll meet your comeuppance sooner than later.

* * *

The management of The Spa refuses to give the personal circumstances of Ms Cuerva, like where she works, her home address and telephone numbers. The management's stand is understandable, though.

Likewise, Collier's International, the group that manages the multi-story RCBC Plaza, refuses to sympathize with Maricel. Collier's could have investigated the incident and probably banned Ms Cuerva from the building if her reported unruly behavior was found to be true.

Will it have to take the small-but-terrible Mayor Jojo Binay, whose heart always goes for the poor, to intervene on behalf of the oppressed young woman for Collier's to act?

* * *

Sen. Manuel Villar should pursue his investigation of the labor agreements signed by the Philippine labor officials with officials of Saudi Arabia where hundreds of thousands of Filipinos work.

Villar found the agreement onerous to the Filipino workers and favorable to Saudi employers.

* * *

One onerous provision declares as legally binding the waivers signed by distressed OFWs while in Saudi Arabia before leaving their Saudi employers. This bars them from pursuing complaints against their abusive employers later.

How come Sto. Tomas, now that she's labor secretary, defends the interests of foreign employers instead of looking after those of her working compatriots abroad? She wasn't like that when she was at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

How easily some people change!

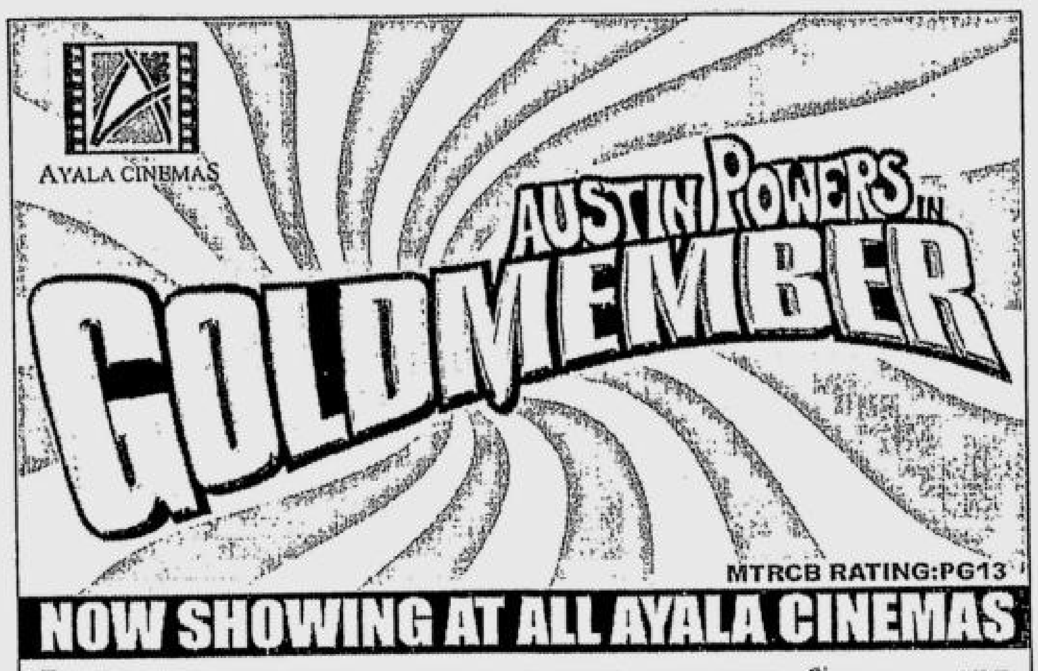
* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo's famous temper reared its head anew when she found that National Food Authority officials in Nueva Ecija were not distributing rice well.

She wanted to know whether rice was reaching the poor.

GMA would also go ballistic when she learned that one of her Cabinet officials plans to use a government import allocation to smuggle rice from Thailand and India. The import allocation, good only for a one-shot deal, will reportedly be used again and again.

AYALA CINEMAS



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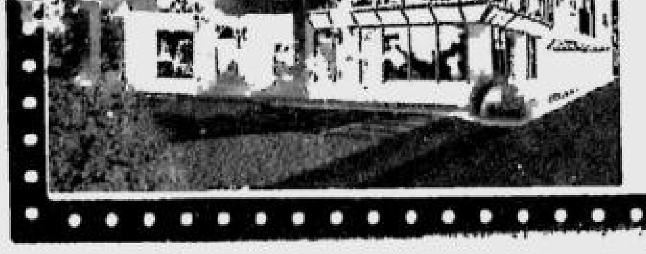

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Alternatives for a flood-free Makati

By Miguel Albert Zulueta
Contributor

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), under the supervision of the Metro Manila Development Authority, has begun a P97-million improvement of Pasong Tamo Street in Makati.

The 2.5-kilometer stretch of Pasong Tamo, which is called "Package 6A" in the project, will start on Pasay Road and will go the entire length of Pasong Tamo all the way up to J.P. Rizal. Package 6A, under the Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Project (MMURTRIP), is funded by the World Bank.

The improvements included in the plan for Pasong Tamo are culvert drainage, sidewalk, construction of waiting sheds, raising of curbs, landscaping, designation of jeepney stops, and removal of frontage parking along the entire Pasong Tamo.

However, if the perpetual flooding of Pasong Tamo is not corrected, much of the planned improvements will deteriorate much quicker than expected due to the wave action of floodwaters.

Drainage outflows

An important item must be addressed to greatly reduce, if not totally eliminate, the perennial flooding of Pasong Tamo.

As Makati motorists and commuters know very well, flooding occurs heavily on Pasong Tamo and Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue, particularly near the railroad crossing at the South Superhighway.

The author recommends solutions regarding drainage outflows which were not considered in Package 6A.

The Pasong Tamo improvement is a veritable light at the end of a long and dismal tunnel

for business operators and residents alike. For years we have suffered local government neglect and have witnessed the deterioration of our immediate physical surroundings.

We welcome these improvements and cannot contain our enthusiasm and willingness to cooperate with all agencies in any way possible. In this spirit, we point out a notable deficiency in the matter of where the improved drainage will terminate.

> If the perpetual flooding of Pasong Tamo is not corrected, much of the planned improvements will deteriorate much quicker than expected due to the wave action of floodwaters

Silt removal

There are three outflows, each with a host of hurdles.

A first alternative is for a drainage outflow to join the existing drains on Arnaiz Street. The Arnaiz drains, which have been clogged for over 20 years, terminate in the Amorsolo Creek. In order for this first alternative outflow to work, a mammoth project must be undertaken to remove silt at the Manila Bay outflow point all the way up to the Amorsolo Creek in San Lorenzo Village, Makati City (*See map*).

In Segment 2 of Package 6A, the drainage outflow is to join the existing drains on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue.

The Gil Puyat drains and an aqueduct project were not completed by the previous administration. The aqueduct should have began at the Gil Puyat railroad crossing and should have terminated in Manila Bay at the end of Buendia.

This outflow is choked at the Buendia-South Superhighway railroad crossing and the water flows into the man-made open estero parallel to the railroad.

Squatters have contributed to the clogging.

Aqueduct completion

A second alternative is to complete the Buendia aqueduct that terminates in Manila Bay. This will require the reactivation and refinement of the plans previously undertaken. It is most likely to be a very costly undertaking.

The JP Rizal existing drain is a newly constructed aqueduct running directly to the Pasig River. The Makati City Hall area is now flood-free even during heavy downpours because of this.

The third alternative is connecting the drainage culvert box-type improvements of Package 6A segments 3 and 4 to Pasig River.

An aerial view of these segments will show that the drainage culverts in segments 3 and 4 are at the shortest distance to the largest outfall—the Pasig River via the JP Rizal aqueduct.

Barangay San Antonio Village and surrounding areas will benefit directly.

Extension

Package 6A can address the perennial flooding problem in segments 1 and 2 very economically by extending the culvert construction across Buendia and Gil Puyat avenues to connect to segments 3 and 4.

Thus, the floodwaters would be able to cross over the Buendia-Pasong Tamo intersection and flow down to the J.P. Rizal Pasig River outflow, alleviating the flooding along the entire length of Pasong Tamo.

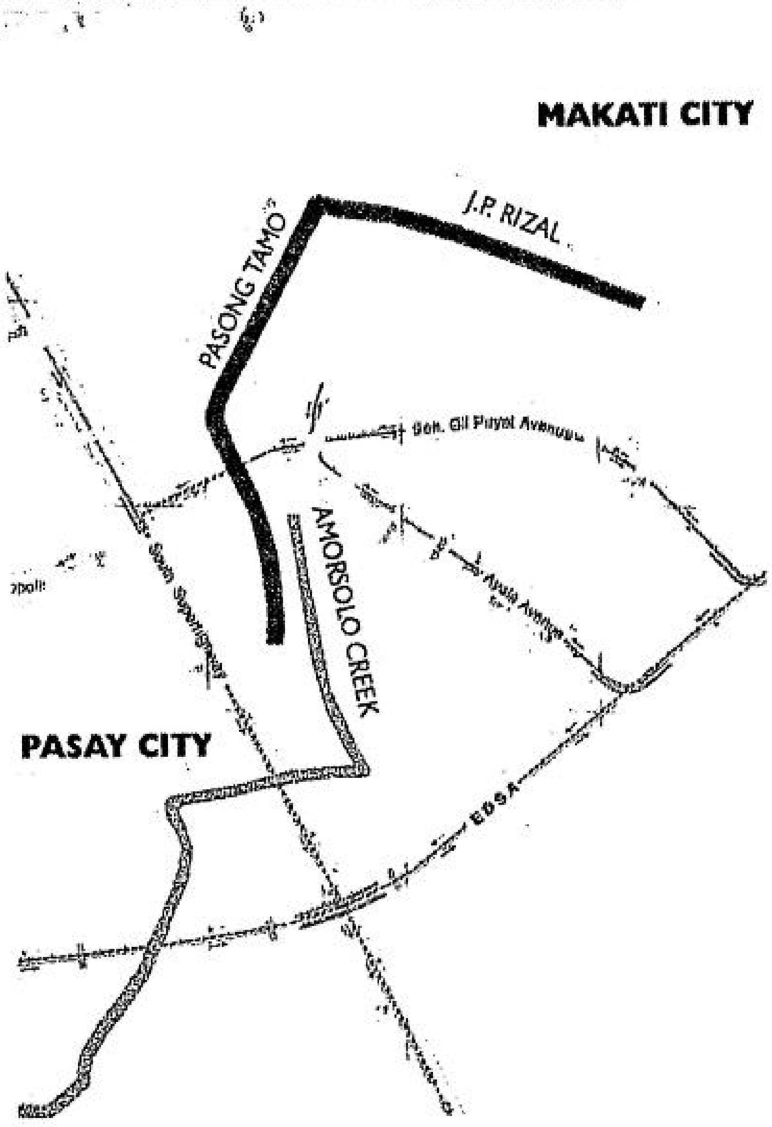
Then, too, if and when the construction of the Gil Puyat aqueduct is undertaken, it would be simple to connect to it later on.

May we call the attention of engineer Elsitio Estebe, District I manager of the Makati Department of Engineering and Public works; architect for Package 6A Jose Antonio B. Castañeda Jr. of MMDA-MMURTRIP; and Parsons Brinckerhoff Philippines, consultants, the World Bank Philippine office, to consider this?

A flood-free Pasong Tamo can be attained.,

(The writer, who operates an inn in Makati, has been "a lifelong resident" of the city who is "very much affected by the floodings." He is an MBA from the University of San Francisco in California.).

PACKAGE 6A: PASONG TAMO



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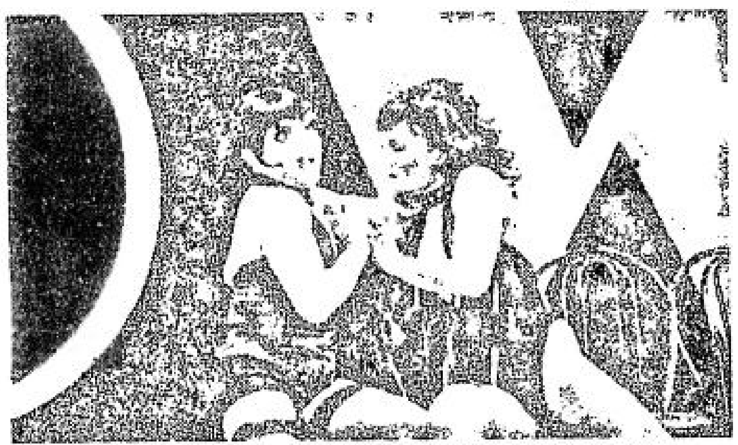

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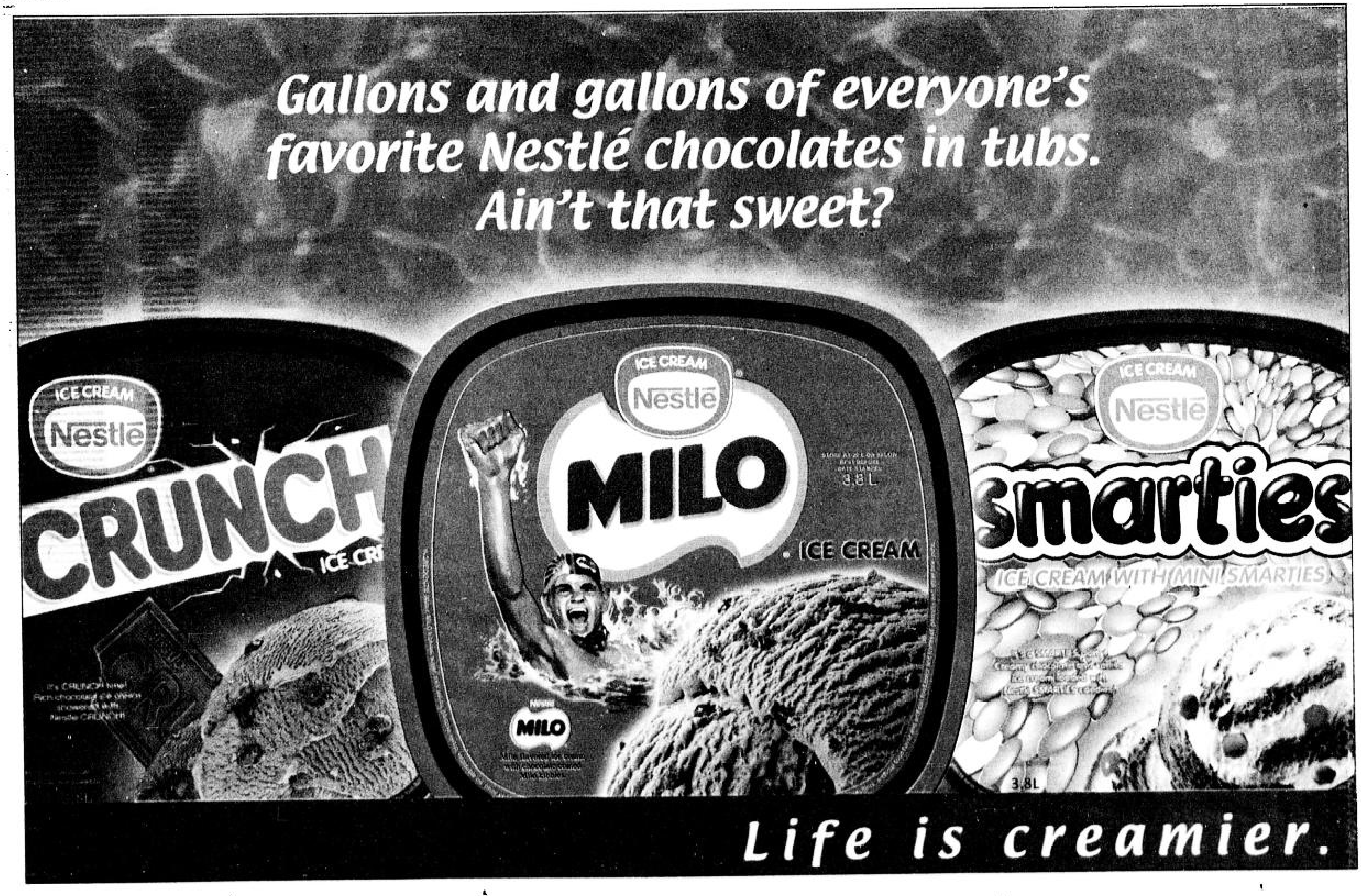
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Chika Go suspect tortured?

By Philip C. Tubeza

WAS THE the suspect in the Chika Go ambush-slaying tortured?

The mother of suspect Victor Macaldo yesterday went to the Manila police headquarters complaining that her son is now fearing for his life.

Lucita Macaldo said she saw certain marks on her son's face.

She alleged that Macaldo's fellow inmates at the police headquarters told her that he had been electrocuted to confess to the crime.

But the police downplayed the mother's accusations, saying it was natural for suspects to claim that they were tortured.

Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban of the Western Police District homicide section said the investigators themselves do not want anything to happen to Macaldo.

He said the suspect was even transferred to the Ermita police station because the jail at the WPD headquarters was crowded.

Macaldo was brought back to the headquarters jail yesterday for his own safety, Taluban added.

The WPD has linked Macaldo to several robberies and murders. The suspect allegedly has confessed to some of these crimes to the police, though not in the presence of his lawyers.

San Pablo City, Laguna policemen had gone to the WPD headquarters on Thursday to check if Macaldo was also involved in the killing of a journalist and a BIR examiner in the city last month.

BIR district examiner Graciano Balubal was shot while he was driving to his office on Aug. 20.

Three days later, crusading journalist Sonny Alcantara was shot in the face by men on a motorcycle while he was leaving his house.

The Las Piñas police and their witnesses allegedly had identified Macaldo in the killing of Jaime Casella, alias Joey Ignacio, on Aug. 8.

Macaldo had also been linked to the robbery of a Caltex and a Petron gas station in Sta. Mesa two months ago.

Macaldo and his brothers Rolando, 29, and Reland, 20, were allegedly involved in that heist. Rolando was killed in a shootout with three Criminal Investigation and Detection Group members during the robbery but another family claimed his body.

Reland reportedly went back to Leyte after the robbery.

SUSPECT Macaldo is still being held the WPD. With him are his wife and daughter. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Fernando . . .

From page A25

city government did not withdraw any street from public use to turn over to "legitimized" sidewalk vendors.

Atienza was reacting to opposition Councilor Benjamin Asilo's claim that he had ceded sidewalks and side streets to the vendors without the authorization of the city council.

Asilo had said Atienza's vending scheme gives the vendors "a false sense of security" because they "could be moved at the mayor's whim."

The mayor also denied this, saying the permits given to the vendors would assure them of a decent means of earning a living and protect them from extortionists.

He told reporters that pedestrians and motorists can still use Trece de Agosto Street in Paco and Villalobos Street in Quiapo, contrary to Asilo's claim.

Atienza said that what the city government did was to construct vendors' stalls about half a meter away from the edge of the sidewalk. The space was divided and given to the vendors who used to ply their trade illegally along the two streets, he said.

He recalled that before City Hall took over Villalobos and Trece de Agosto, the two streets had virtually disappeared because of the big number of vendors operating there.

But now, he said, vehicles can pass through both streets because the vendors know where to stay.

He said the city could not do anything but legalize vending on Carriedo because it has always been a bazaar alley.

Atienza stressed that the organized vending scheme is a temporary solution.

He said convincing the vendors to adhere to the organized vending scheme is "more difficult than the policy of driving vendors away."

According to Bayan-NCR spokesperson Ron Hubbard, Atienza of Manila and Abalos of Mandaluyong have promised to attend the Sept. 17 forum with vendors.

Hubbard said Pasig City Mayor Soledad Eusebio "has agreed in principle" to attend the forum, but Eusebio does not know yet whether she would be available on the forum date.

Mayors Jejomar Binay of Makati City and Peewee Trinidad of Pasay City have also sent feelers about wanting to attend the meeting, Hubbard said.

In the forum, the mayors and vendors will discuss other options for sidewalk vendors.

"Fernando, you need to undergo a psychiatric test," Kilusang Mayo Uno spokesperson Sammy Malunes said during a rally in front of the MMDA office yesterday.

He said Fernando is not thinking clearly and the MMDA needs a new chair "who knows how to use his head" and has compassion.

Members of KMU, Bayan, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) and Alyansa ng Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol ng Kabuhayan at Karapatan (Alma-Ka) threw vegetables at pictures of Fernando and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo before burning the pictures in front of the MMDA office.

Franciscan Sister Teresita Alo, who joined the rally, said Fernando should think about the plight of the poor first.

"What's the use of having a clean city when there is no one to enjoy it?" she said. "Fernando's methods are killing the poor."

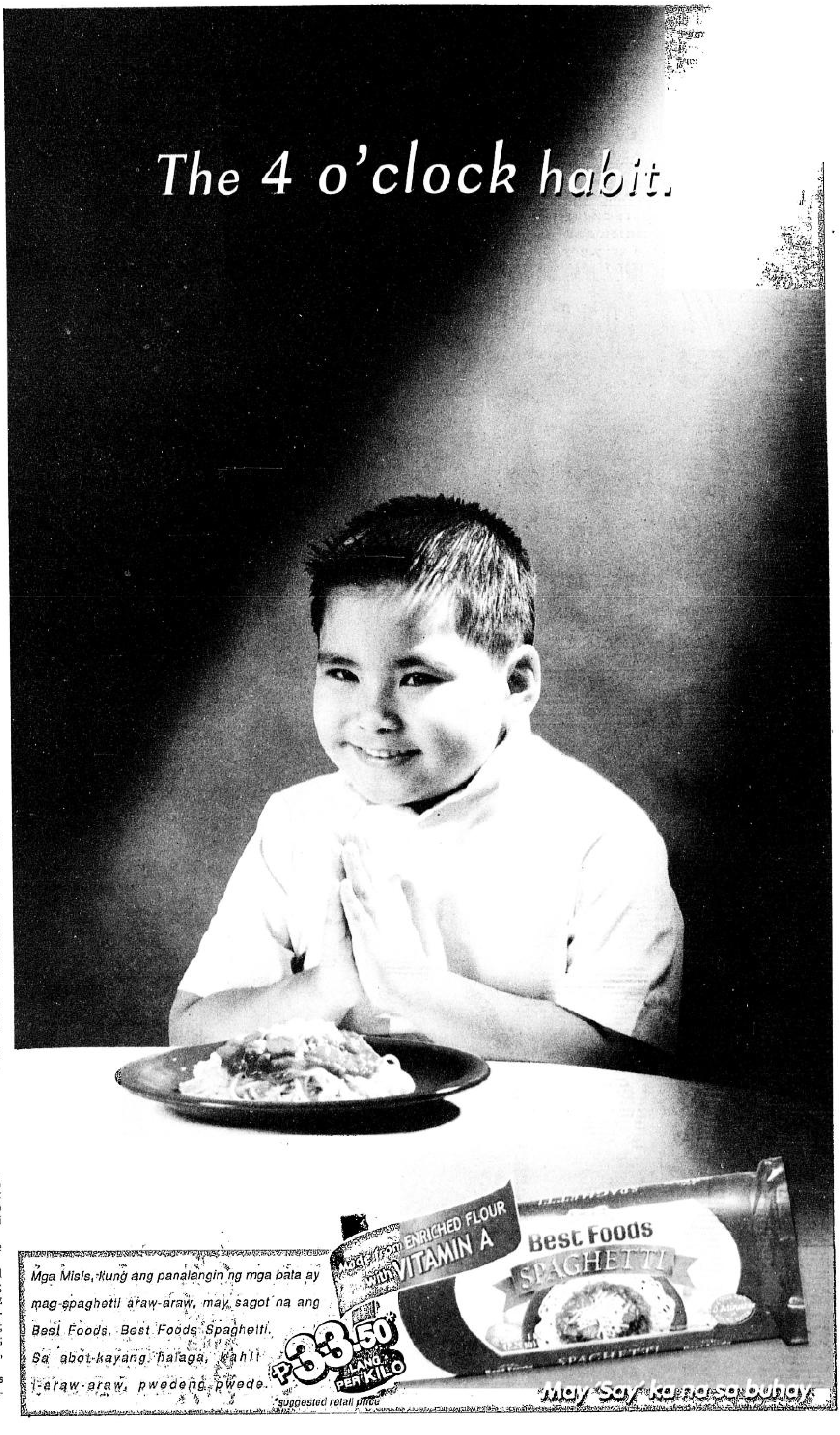
AHS '55 officers meet today

OFFICERS of Arellano High School Class '55, led by businessman Jaime Ladao, will meet at noon today at Power Plant in Makati City to discuss plans for their golden jubilee alumni celebration in 2005.

Among the items to be discussed are the homecoming date and venue, says Ladao.

The other Class '55 officers are Percival Salazar, chair; Rey Pilar, first vice president; Dolly Legaspi Lim, second VP; Ester Gomez Covas, secretary; Naty Ledesma, assistant secretary; Honorata Rivera de Leon, treasurer; Linda Tenefrancia Supnet, assistant treasurer; Pining Cristobal, auditor; Gus B. Villanueva, PRO; and Rogelo David, sergeant at arms.

The committee chairs are Moises Maniego, ways and means; Baby Caparas, invitation; and Ted Legaspi, finance.



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Jeepney drivers to ask for P1 fare hike

By Agnes E. Donato

FED UP with the consecutive oil price increases, four major jeepney drivers' organizations yesterday bared their plan to petition for a peso fare hike if oil companies do not roll back the prices of their products.

The leaders of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston), Federation of Jeepney Drivers and Operators Nationwide (Fejodap), Pangkalahatang Samahan ng ManilaSuburbs Drivers Association (Pasang Masda) and the Federation of Rizal-Cubao Operators and Drivers Association (Fercoda) said they would file a petition before the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board next week.

Piston national chair Medardo Roda earlier said that transport groups would ask for a fare increase only when the combined oil price hikes since last March reach two pesos.

But in a Quezon City press conference yesterday, the four groups, which have about 200,000 driver-members, said they could no longer bear the accumulated oil price increases, which now amount to P1.88.

"It's only 12 centavos away from the limit we set earlier. Besides, word has been going around that there would be another oil price hike next week," Roda said.

He explained that because of the price hikes, a jeepney driver who consumes an average of 30 liters of diesel a day now has to spend P56 more for his fuel than he did last March.

A liter of diesel, which cost only P12.87 last March, now costs P14.85. There has been six oil price increases and only one rollback since March.

Fejodap national chair Zenaida Maranan said that the exorbitant taxes being imposed on oil products were partly to blame for the high prices.

Maranan said that P4.30 goes to the government for every liter of gasoline bought by motorists. For every liter of diesel puchased, P1.63 goes to state coffers.

Roda added that the government should immediately scrap the Oil Deregulation Law, which he said, allows the so-called "Big Three" of the oil industry–Shell, Caltex and Petron–to impose oil price hikes as they please.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo has control over the Senate and the House anyway. She might as well order Congress to scrap the Oil Deregulation Law," Roda said.

Dad proposes IT department in city hall

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA councilor has asked the city government to rise up to the challenges of modernization by creating a new department in charge of information technology and telecommunications.

Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said that information technology and telecommunications should be a top concern of city hall if it wants to improve its services to the public.

The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications would be in charge of all franchises on computer and electronic communications services. It would also be tasked to maintain a long-range telecommunications strategy, coordinate communication during disasters, provide technical assistance, develop the use of cable television, and propose energy-related programs.

The department would procure communications facilities for the various city government agencies, maintain a website and ensure data and information security.

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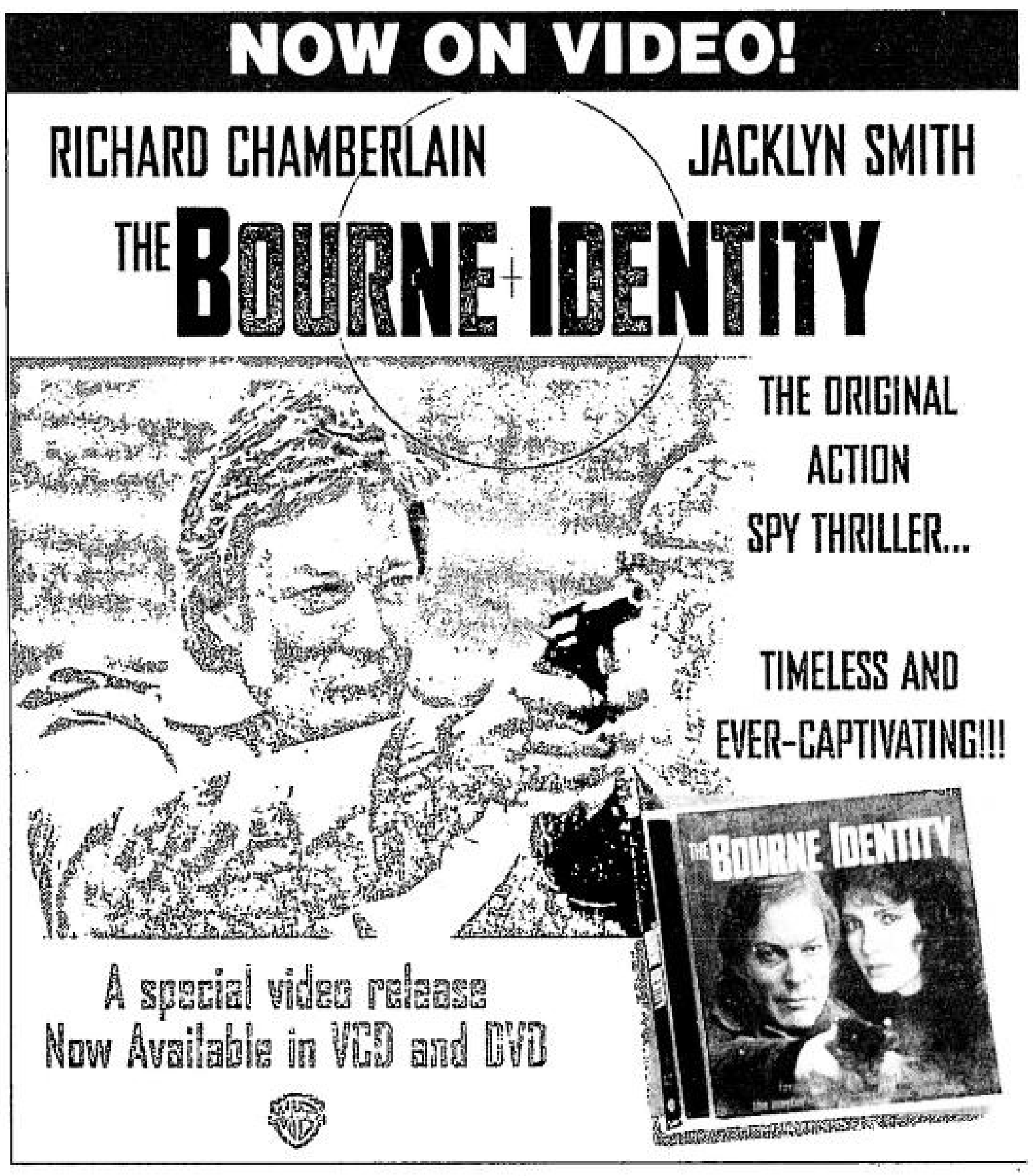
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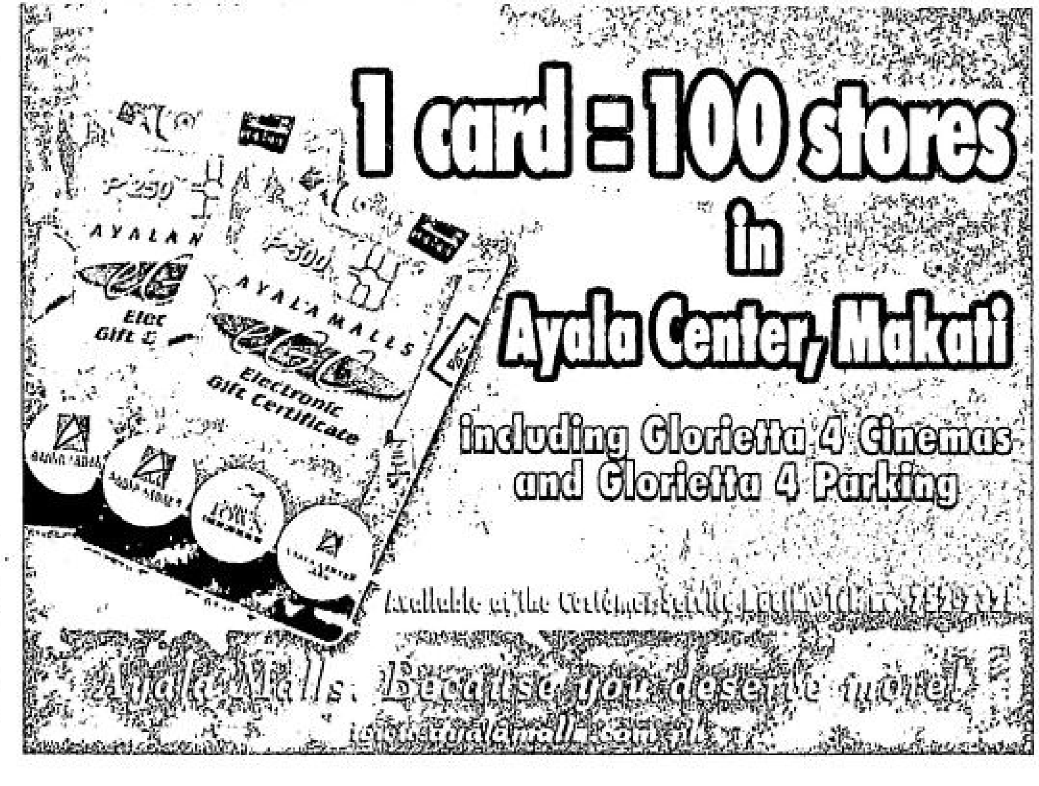
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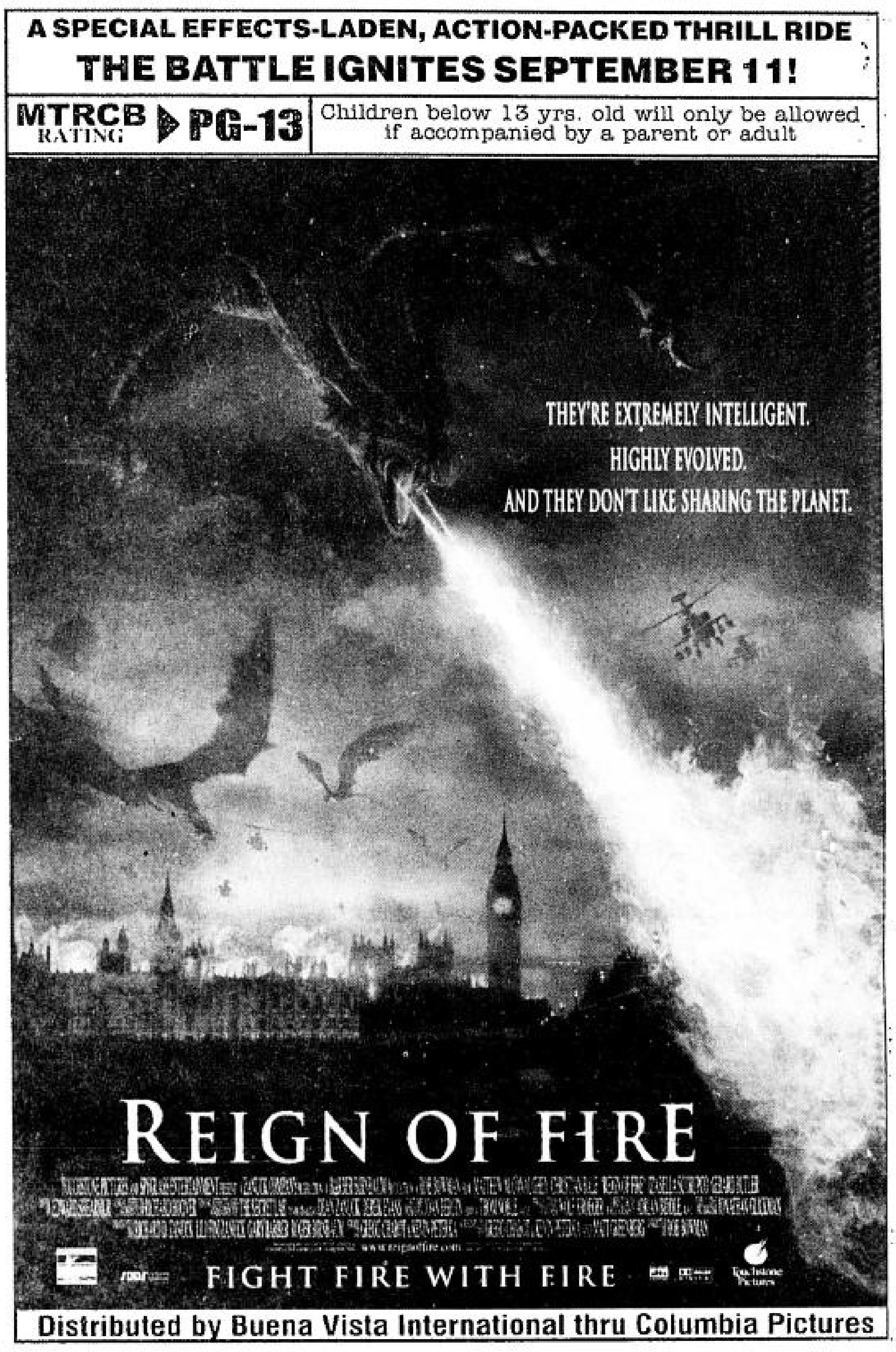
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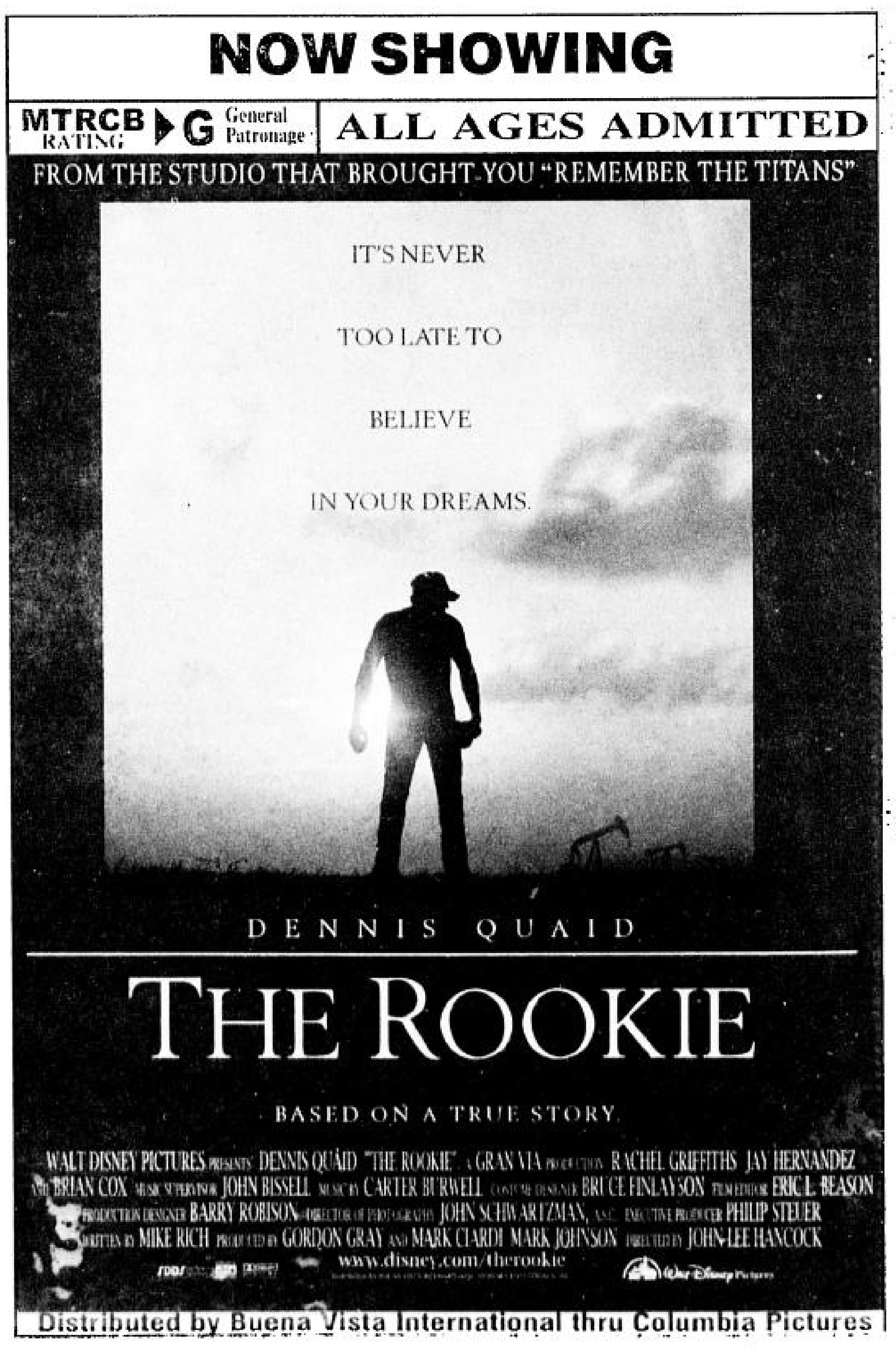
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Shangri-la Hotel sued for Norwegian's death

By Agnes Donato

THE MAKATI Shangri-la Hotel is facing a P28-million damage suit filed by the family of Norwegian business executive Christian Harper, 30, who was allegedly stabbed dead inside his room at the hotel in Nov. 1999. Harper's wife Ellen Joanne and their son Jonathan Christopher, of Oslo, Norway, have held the management of Makati Shangri-la Hotel and Resort Inc. responsible for Harper's death.

The Harpers asked the court to order the hotel to pay them US $500,000 in actual and compensatory damages, US $40,000 for the expenses they incurred in bringing Harper's remains to Norway, and another P500,000 in lawyer's fees.

In their complaint, the Harpers said that Christian made a business trip to Manila on Nov. 2, 1999 and stayed in at Rm. 1428 of the hotel. They said that most foreign executives from Harper's company who come to Manila, stay at the Makati Shangri-la because it "has prided itself to be among the top hotel chains in the east (and claimed) to provide excellent service, comfort and security for its guests."

So Harper stayed at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Harper was to check out of the hotel on November 6, but he was found stabbed dead inside his hotel room. His killer remains unidentified.

The Harpers questioned how a killer was able to get through security and have access to the private rooms.

Quezon City court clears businessman of drug raps

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City court yesterday acquitted a Chinese national of drug trafficking charges filed against him in 1993.

Businessman Andy Que was absolved of charges of selling 452.4 grams of methampetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu," three years after agents of the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) who arrested him in a supposed buy-bust operation in Caloocan City.

In his 16-page decision, Judge Jose Catral Mendoza of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court said that the prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence to prove Que's guilt.

"While it may be true that the accused was indeed involved in the drug trade, the strong doubt that permeates its mind, however, makes it difficult for the Court to convict the accused," Mendoza said.

"Its conscience would not be appeased if an innocent man would be thrown behind bars forever just because he is a Chinese national and the volume (of the involved contraband) is more than (for) one's personal use," he added.

According to court records, Que was arrested on September 7, 1999 in a buy-bust operation by PAOCTF agents.

Posing as buyer, SPO1 Reius San Diego supposedly arranged to buy 500 grams of shabu worth P300,000 from Que on September 6, 1999.

But when both parties were about to meet, Que allegedly called up the policeman and asked that the transaction be reset to the next day, as the businessman had figured in a vehicular accident.

They then agreed to push through with the deal on Sept. 7, and Que was arrested after he allegedly took the bogus money from San Diego.

In his defense, Que maintained that he was abducted on the morning of Sept. 6 and brought to the PAOCTF headquarters in Camp Crame. He said that the policemen who abducted him told him that they would release him if he gave them P10 million.

When Que was not able to produce the money, he was brought to a cell and told to get a lawyer, but was not allowed to use a phone, the defendant said.

After five or six days in detention, a woman gave him a phone which he used to call his wife, whom he told to get a lawyer.

He said his wife was able to secure the services of a lawyer, whom he claimed made him sign a seven-page affidavit that he did not understand. He added that he was also not given an interpreter when he was interrogated in Camp Crame.

Witness Othello Ocampo, Caloocan City Barangay 136 chair corroborated Que's story on his abduction.

Judge Mendoza said he found as a major inconsistency the failure of prosecution witness SPO1 Reius San Diego to describe the bogus money he supposedly used to trap Que.

"Knowledge of the buy-bust money itself is very crucial because it is the very consideration in a drug deal," Mendoza said.

"All SPO1 San Diego had to do was describe what (the fakemoney) he had prepared, if he did so. But it turned out that he really did not know what he was talking about," he added.

The judge also noted that the policemen refused to take the defense lawyers' challenge for them to undergo a polygraph test.

But Mendoza maintained that although the police failed to prove Que's guilt, the court also had "no solid basis to categorically declare that the police officers committed any wrongdoing."

Customs officials blamed for loss of shabu

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHO SHOULD be held liable for a bungled anti-drugs operation that led to the loss of P1 million worth of shabu imported into the country?

An NBI investigator has blamed Bureau of Customs officials for the loss of 500 grams of shabu that was shipped to the country from South Korea in November last year.

Congress is currently investigating the bungled "controlled delivery" of drugs after the South Koreans raised a howl about the botched operation.

The NBI source said that sometime in November last year, South Korean police intercepted 91 kilos of shabu concealed in shipment of sotanghon (glass noodles).

The shipment came from China and was destined for the Philippines.

South Korean authorities immediately contacted the NBI and planned a "controlled delivery" of the illegal drugs to find out who would receive them.

The South Koreans replaced all but 500 grams of the shabu shipment with alum.

The NBI then contacted customs officials and told them to immediately alert the bureau once the consignees receives the cargo.

The shipment arrived at the port of Manila on Nov. 20 at 12:07 p.m., but customs officials informed the NBI agents only at about 2 p.m., the source said.

He said the customs officials claimed that they did not notice the shipment's arrival because it was apparently consigned to a trading firm named Sto. Cristo International.

The South Koreans told Philippine authorities that the cargo was under the name of Elitsped Inc., the source said.

NBI agents caught up with the truck carrying the cargo in Baliuag, Bulacan, but they found only the sotanghon inside the vehicle.

The source said that the NBI has charged 10 persons—four of them Filipino-Chinese—for the shipment. But they were charged only with illegal importation and not for possession of illegal drugs.

"The South Koreans were angry and they wrote Congress about it," the source said.

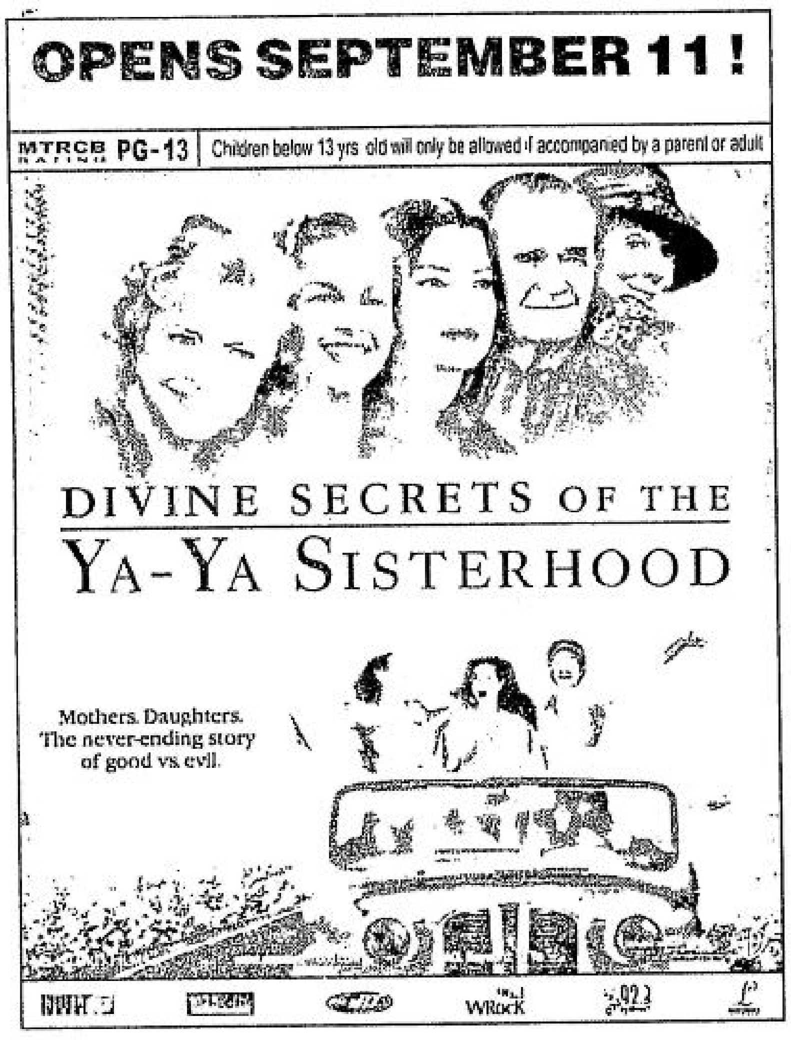
Cop shoots tank

MANILA policeman PO1 Noel T. Canites is facing charges of alarm and scandal after he allegedly fired his gun and hit a water tank in Malate, Manila when a mental patient cursed at him, police said.

Housewife Minda Paraiso, 37, yesterday filed the complaint against Canites at the WPD headquarters.

She told investigators that the policeman got angry at her brother, Oscar, an outpatient of the National Center for Mental Health, who had one of his spells and called Canites names.

Instead of understanding the patient's condition, Canites blew his top, pulled out his gun, and fired, hitting her water tank, the complainant said. *P. Tubeza*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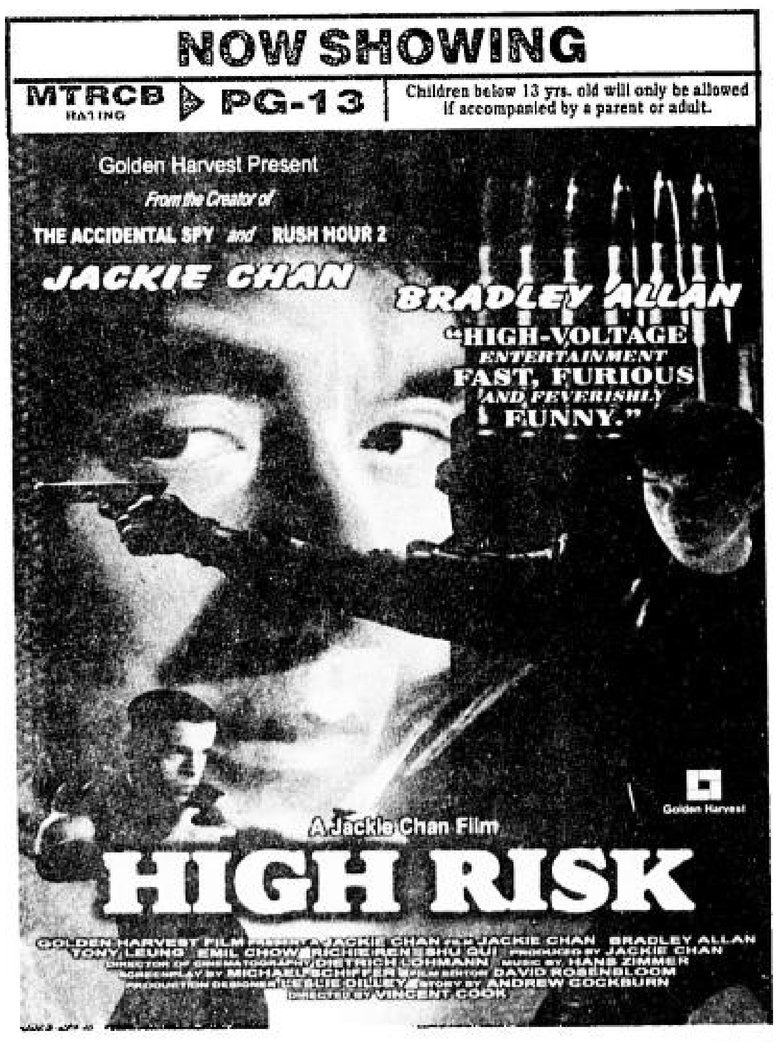
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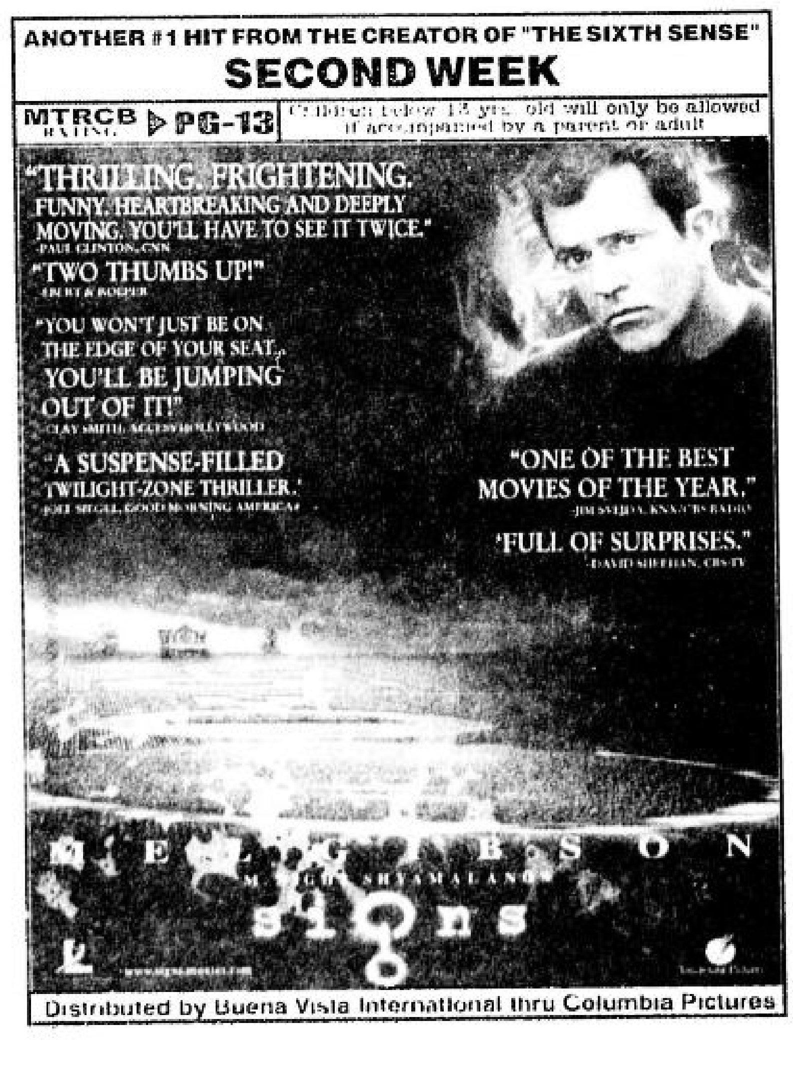
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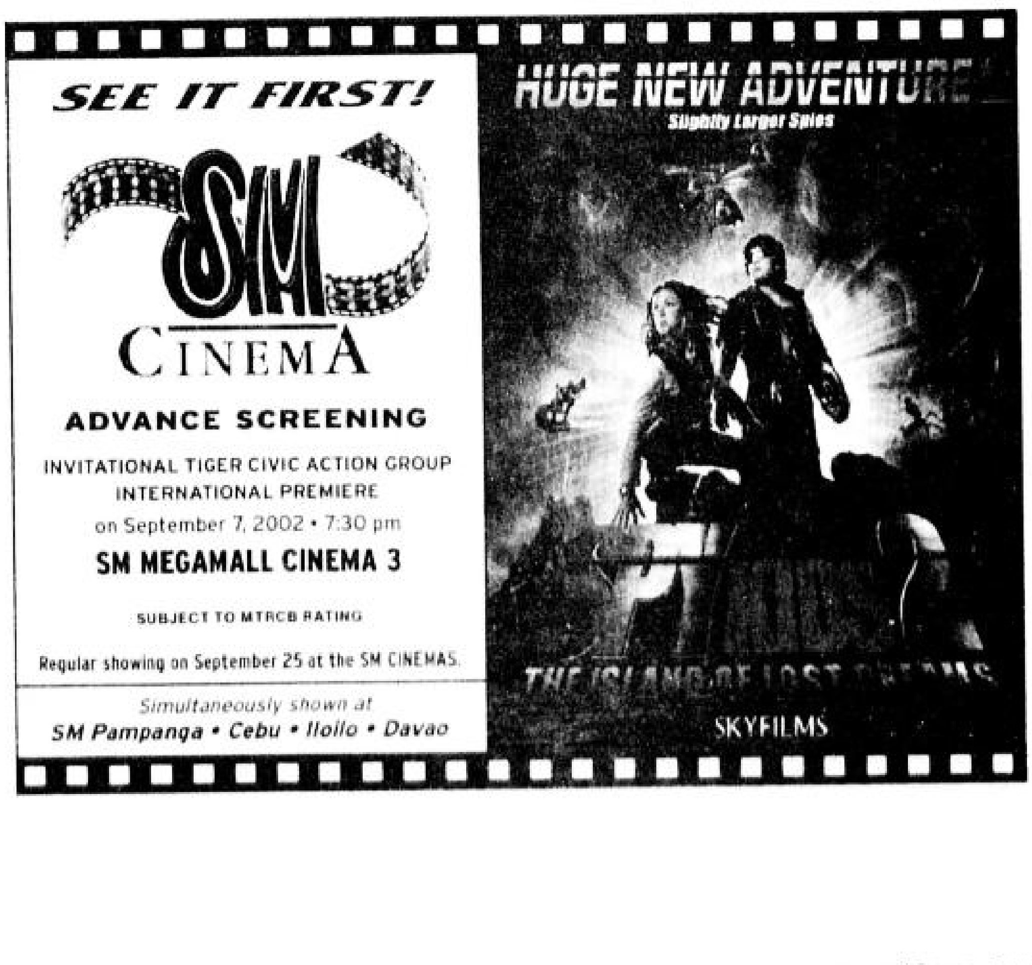
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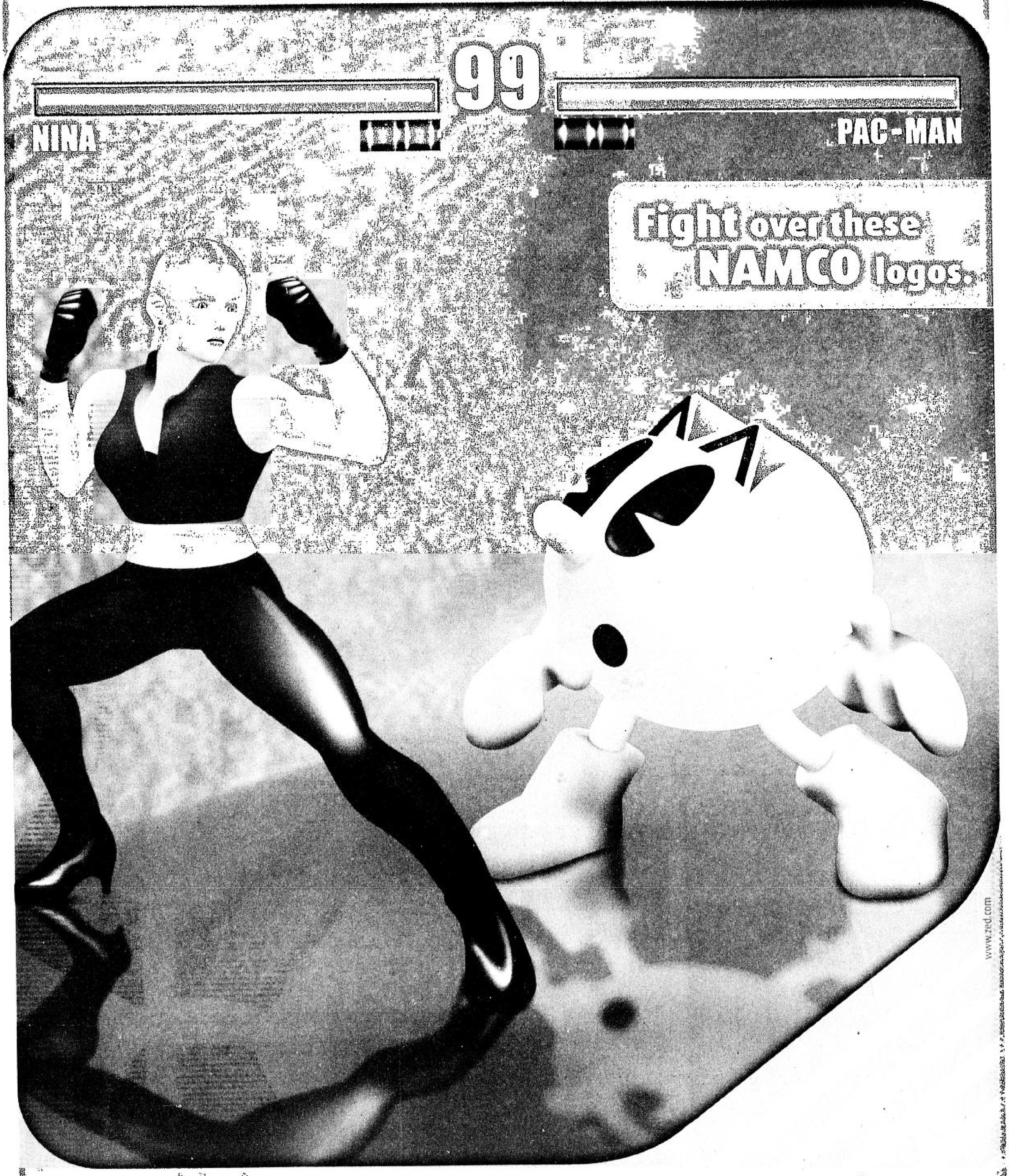
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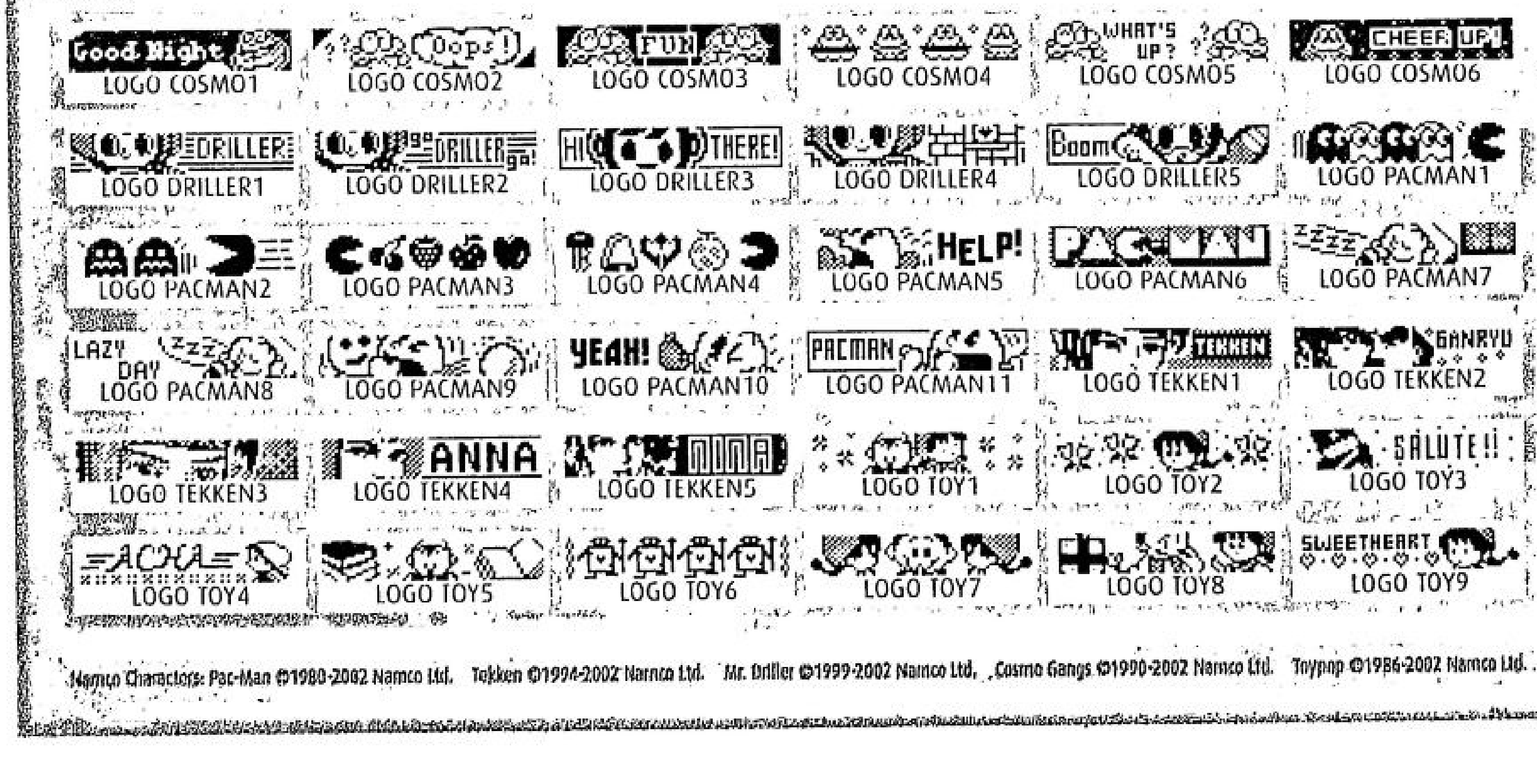
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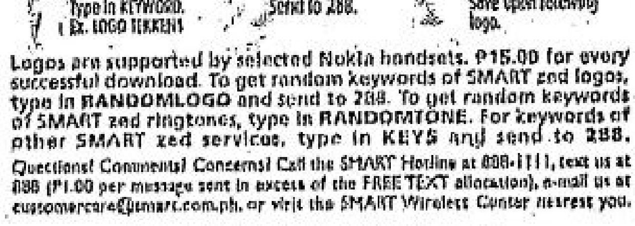
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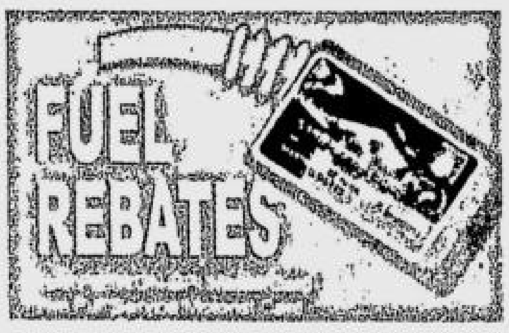

RP raises $300M from 5-year bonds

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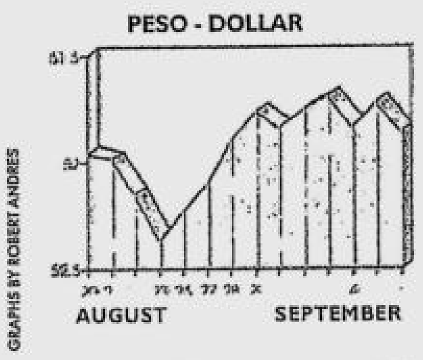

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks up slightly

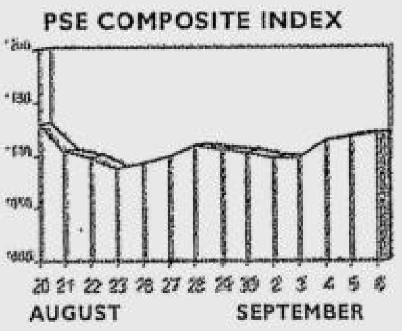
SELECT blue chips drove shares slightly higher yesterday as investors remained generally cautious with a lack of fresh leads and with lingering concerns over the country's budget deficit.

Traders said possible US military action against Iraq was also a worry but would not have a major impact in a market where foreign fund flows have almost dried up.

"Selected buying continued to be experienced by the market. The market's behavior is somewhat cautious given the concerns about the budget deficit," said Astro del Castillo, an analyst at A&A Securities Inc.

"It's merely psychological, but Iraq is a major concern, though it should not have much impact because of the lack of foreign funds in the market," he said.

Reuters



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has raised $300 million from the sale of new five-year bonds as part of a fund-raising campaign to cover next year's P142-billion budget deficit.

"This is the start of our prefunding exercise for next year. This will not be for this year's requirements because we have fully financed the deficit for 2002," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday.

Edeza issued the clarification following speculations that the new funds would be used to finance this year's deficit.

Next year, the government said it would raise $2.3 billion from foreign commercial sources.

Edeza said the five-year securities with a coupon rate of 7.5 percent would be listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. ING Bank N.V. is the sole bookrunner of the transaction with BDO Capital & Investment Corp., Equitable PCI Bank, and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. as joint sales agents.

Edeza said the total orders for the new Philippine borrowing reached $525 million but the government decided to accept only $300 million. This was $100 million more than the government's target.

"This particular issue has the lowest coupon rate we have achieved on similar tenors. As such, the five-year bonds will also help smooth out the (country's) debt maturity profile," the treasurer added.

Edeza said tapping the foreign markets for this round of borrowing was cheaper compared to prevailing rates in the local market. He criticized the local fixed-income market players for offering higher rates in previous auctions of government securities due to increased speculation over the widening budget deficit.

As of July, the budget deficit had widened to P133 billion and this early, analysts and economists believed that the gap would soar to between P160 billion and P180 billion by year's end.

Edeza said the government had raised sufficient funds to finance this year's deficit, whatever the final number would be.

Economic managers have been assuring the market that the government would not tap the local market for additional funds to finance the deficit after it raised P63 billion from the issuance of three- and five-year retail bonds last June.

So far, the government had raised $1.7 billion from the foreign markets to finance this year's budget gap against a programmed foreign funding of $1.5 billion.

The government had raised $750 million from the 15-year global bond market in January, $1 billion from the seven-year global bond market in March and $300 million from the seven-year market in June.

Gov't moves closer to ending used-vehicle imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CABINET has agreed to support the Department of Trade and Industry in setting up a roadblock to the further importation of used, right-hand drive (RHD) vehicles at the Subic Bay freeport zone.

A government source said the Cabinet agreed in principle to put in line the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's (SBMA) customs regulations with the national customs provisions.

The DTI obtained the crucial Cabinet support during Saturday's meeting and it is expected to draw up a draft memorandum order by Tuesday to enforce the new policy. Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II confirmed that the issue was taken up Saturday but he declined to comment on the results.

The SBMA has sanctioned the importation of second-hand vehicles and their conversion to left-hand drive for sale to the domestic market by invoking its freeport status, which exempts it from the national customs rules.

But the DTI has argued that the SBMA could only bring in second-hand, RHD vehicles only if these were reexported overseas. The DTI stressed that the SBMA should observe national customs rules, which bans the importation of RHD vehicles (RA 8506) and limits the entry of second-hand vehicles under the *balikbayan* program.

The Philippine Automotive Federation Inc. cited an SBMA memorandum issued on Dec. 14, 2000, which provided that importation of second-hand used cars to be auctioned off, sold or traded and intended for the Philippine customs territory shall be prohibited and that all vehicle importation should comply with all existing rules and regulations by other government agencies.

Aside from broadening the coverage of customs rules to cover Subic, the DTI has also proposed stricter implementation of the *balikbayan* import program (which allows returning Filipinos to bring in one used vehicle at preferred rates) to discourage

GOV'T/ B2

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Hide and sick

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S about time I give up on getting medical insurance for myself. I have a compelling reason. Health insurance companies are always dumping me.

They say I belong to a high risk group. I am a newsman. Writing a column, in the eyes of the insurance business, is similar to engaging in unprotected sex in Quezon Avenue.

Just how unhealthy my work could be, I realized over the phone one day. A woman told me that her company just rejected my application for health insurance.

Hers was a big insurance company, advertising ties with large foreign groups, plus the backing of a big local bank, which a certain Jose Velarde made famous.

The sweet voice on the phone explained to me, sorry, it was company policy not to accept newsmen. She even asked me if it was . . . well, okay.

Of course it was not okay. I was just rejected, forgodsakes! I needed the insurance. It was the only way I could get any decent treatment if I got terribly sick.

Here, if the sickness does not get you, the price of medicine will. You can run when you're sick, but you cannot hide from the pharmaceutical companies.

We have the most expensive medicine in all of Asia, and probably second only to the United States in the whole world. At least, for once, we are No. 1 in something.

* * *

ANYWAY, I just realized the past couple of weeks how bad things were. Different kinds of virus and bacteria attacked me one after another. Luckily, the illness was nothing serious. It was just costly.

The doctor said it had something to do with the season. In other words, you could not do anything about it even if you try. You could get those bugs simply by breathing.

If only I forgot to breathe, therefore, I could have saved a lot of money. In all those times, you see, I spent for medicine about 10 times more than I paid the doctor.

That's how expensive medicine has become here. One study says that, when you are hospitalized, medicine actually accounts for 6C to 80 percent of your total bill.

Now I know why Trade Secretary Mar Roxas is not in love with multinational pharmaceutical companies. By helping to cure us, they are really just killing us.

Every year we spend for medicine something like P60 billion. The multinationals get about 80 percent of that—or some P48 billion. They control the business.

This cute administration of Gloriaetta even went to the extent of begging them to bring down prices. Luckily, they agreed that the government must be out of its mind.

* * *

MAR Roxas tried to fight the multinationals by importing medicine. He paid much less for the same exact medicine which was made by the same exact multinational company in Thailand.

Importing small quantities of medicine, by the way, may very well soon become the next big hit among the *viajeras*, perhaps replacing garments from Thailand.

My info is, prices here are between three and 10 times more than those in our neighboring countries. In short, there are big margins in the racket, este, business.

For like it or not, Mar does not have all the money to fight the multinational companies.

BREAKTIME/ B3

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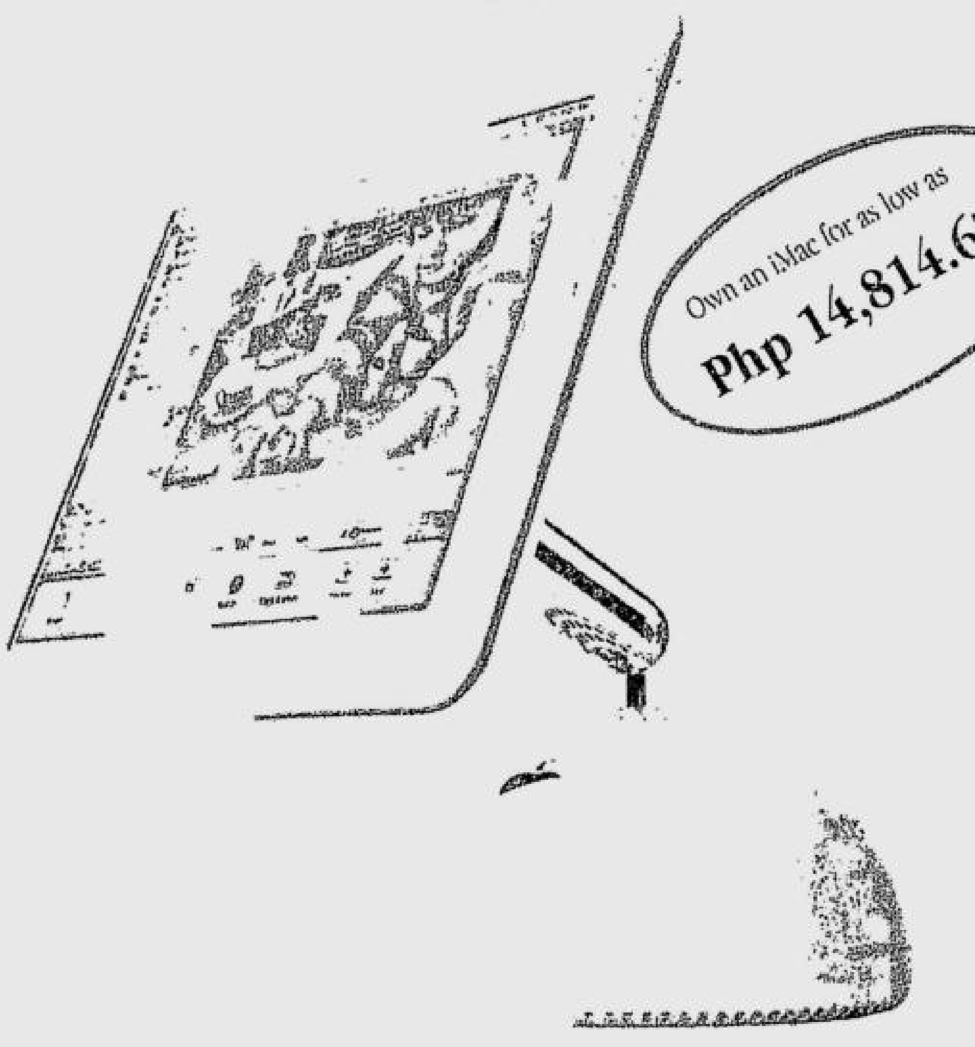

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3316 Series of 2002

Group to put up ₱2-B water facility

A CONSORTIUM led by the Ayala group plans to invest about P2 billion in a new bulk water supply project in Cebu under an unsolicited proposal recently submitted to the Metropolitan Cebu Water District.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Ayala Corp. managing director Renato Marzan said the conglomerate had teamed up with Central Equity Ventures Inc. (Cevi) for this project. The plan is to extract raw water from the municipality of Carmen to be supplied to the Metro Cebu area.

"The project proposal will be subject to the evaluation, review and approval by relevant government agencies, including the Local Water Utilities Administration and National Economic Development Authority," Marzan said, noting that the consortium has yet to bag the infrastructure deal.

Based on the process required by the build-operate-transfer (BOT) Law (Republic Act No. 6957 as amended by RA 7718), any unsolicited proposal will be opened to a public bidding but the original proponent has the right to improve on its offer in case a better proposal was submitted.

The project will involve the design, development, financing, operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities needed in the extraction, treatment and delivery of water from the Cantumog-Luyang River in Carmen to Metro Cebu through a system of transmission pipelines and pumping stations connected to the MWCD.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 6, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	42.700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	45	44	45	1,861.800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc. •	28.5	28.5	28	28	34,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	276,800
Philippine National Bank	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	6,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Abacus Financial	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	150,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1140	1140	1140	1140	70
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	895	890	895	2,700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	13,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	710,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	495	495	1,360
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.031	0.031	6,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	1,500,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	287.5	292.5	287.5	292.5	99.460
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	51,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19	19.25	19	19.25	13,700
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32.5	31.5	32.5	341.500
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,350.000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	11,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	142,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	67,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	143,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	800
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	49	49	34,600
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52	51.5	52	922,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	150,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	162,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.36	2.34	2.36	831,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	340,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.23	0.24	1,690,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	360,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	520,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	476,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	7,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	2,450,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.39	0.3	0.39	210,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	650,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	170,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	2,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	290,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	80,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.45	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	419,600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4.1	4.1	4	4	33,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	1,258,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	760,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	1,560,000
Empire East Land Inc,	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,570,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1:18	15,247'000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	5,851,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	60,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	1,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,530,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	290,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	740,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	100,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	700,000

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. clarified that its wholly owned subsidiary EBC **Strategic Holdings Corp.** had signed a non-conclusive memorandum of agreement for the sale of its stake in **Ecology Bank** but the terms and conditions have yet to be finalized.

* * *

FIRST E-Bank Corp. said there were non-binding merger and direct investment proposals submitted to the bank but a definitive agreement has yet to be reached. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Sept. 6, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.007760	1.000000	51.7950
Japan	Yen	0.008523	0.008457	0.4380
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578656	1.566500	81.1369
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129202	0.128207	6.6405
Switzerland	Franc	0.685085	0.679810	35.2108
Canada	Dollar	0.641028	0.636092	32.9464
Singapore	Dollar	0.577017	0.572574	29.6565
Australia	Dollar	0.545797	0.541594	28.0519
Bahrain	Dinar	2.673386	2.652801	137.4018
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.268729	0.266660	13.8117
Brunei	Dollar	0.575173	0.570744	29.5617
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023909	0.023725	1.2288
UAE	Dirham	0.274392	0.272279	14.1027
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000847	0.0439
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.992300	51.3902
Argentina	Real	0.279933	0.277778	14.3875
Brazil	Real	0.320229	0.317763	16.4585
Denmark	Kroner	0.134700	0.133663	6.9231
India	Rupee	0.020821	0.020661	1.0701
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265235	0.263193	13.6321
Mexico	New Peso	0.100726	0.099950	5.1769
New Zealand	Dollar	0.469709	0.466092	24.1412
Norway	Kroner	0.135504	0.134461	6.9644
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017023	0.016892	0.8749
South Africa	Rand	0.095432	0.094697	4.9048
Sweden	Kroner	0.108097	0.107265	5.5558
Syria	Pound	0.022800	0.022624	1.1718
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029622	0.029394	1.5225
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000707	0.000702	0.0364

Gov't moves . . .

From page B1

consolidation of permits by unscrupulous traders.

The DTI's efforts are being made in parallel with the industry's efforts to stop the trade through the courts and through a congressional inquiry.

These moves should finally address the local automotive industry's worry on the influx of used cars through Subic in the last three years. The assemblers have opposed the second-hand, RHD vehicle imports not only because they rob legitimate businessmen of sales (a used vehicle sold is one less new vehicle bought) but they also pose risks to safety and the environment.

The ban on used vehicle imports is part of the reform package proposed by the DTI in its Motor Vehicle Development Program. The MVDP changes include the shift in excise tax basis from engine size to vehicle price.

END-AUGUST

Forex reserves hit $16.123B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S dollar reserves rose slightly to $16.123 billion as of end-August from $16.117 billion in the previous month after a state-owned firm placed the proceeds of a short-term borrowing in the vaults of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The stable level of the gross international reserves bodes well for the recovery of the local currency. The peso yesterday closed lower at 51.86 to a dollar from 51.72 last Thursday.

The modest increase in the GIR went up following the decision of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System to deposit with the BSP the proceeds of a $100-million short-term borrowing from Deutsche Bank.

According to a central bank official, the deposits helped offset the payments of the national government and the BSP's maturing obligations last month.

Traders said the modest deposit also built up the GIR during the time when the central bank was believed to have sold some dollars in the market to temper the peso's volatility in August when the local currency went down to a year's low of 52.36 to a dollar.

The healthy level of gross reserves ensures that the peso would remain stable. The central bank, traders said, is armed with enough bullets to fight peso speculators.

A strong GIR assures the country's trading partners that it could pay its debts and importations. Thus, it should further improve the confidence of foreign investors and creditors in the Philippines.

The level of dollar reserves is particularly important to the psychology of the foreign exchange market since a weak GIR gives an impression that the central bank would not have the resources to defend the peso against speculative attacks.

The BSP noted that the level of dollar reserves in August was equivalent to 5.2 months' worth of imports of goods and services.

The end-August GIR is three times the amount of short-term debts or those maturing within a year.

Traders said the central bank had started to accumulate dollars from the spot market following the recovery of the peso during the last two weeks. Normally, the BSP sells dollars to temper the peso's volatility during times of weakness.

A central bank official confirmed that the BSP did not sell dollars in June but even bought some amount although the central bank's purchases from the spot market in June was much lower from its accumulation in May when the peso was trading at the low 49:$1 level.

Gov't seen meeting 4-4.5% growth target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE UNIVERSITY of Asia and the Pacific yesterday said the Philippines could easily meet the 4- to 4.5-percent expansion in domestic product targeted by the government for this year on the back of broad-based growth across sectors.

In an economic briefing, UA&P School of Economics dean Bernardo Villegas said his forecast GDP for the full year was a range of 3.6-4.5 percent but said the momentum was now on the higher end of the range.

Industry and services are expected to post the biggest growth of 3.1-3.8 percent and 4.5-6 percent, respectively, while industry is seen to grow by 1.9-2.6 percent.

"The Philippines seems to be decoupling from the political environment. Despite the very adverse circumstances of grandstanding politicians, corrupt government officials and a rash of kidnappings and terrorist activities, the more market-oriented economy of the country turned out a surprising performance," Villegas said.

In the second quarter, a dramatic rebound in industry led by manufacturing and resilient services allowed the Philippines to post a GDP growth of 4.5 percent, the strongest performance since the third quarter of 2000.

Breaktime

From page B2

As always, the biggest problem of the government is . . . well, funding.

And the government does not have enough money because of poor tax collection. One reason is, some of those multinational companies don't even pay taxes. Ask the BIR!

Even with their yearly sales of P48 billion, as an industry group, the multinational pharmaceutical companies are still claiming losses in their local operation.

Yeah, right, they are losing so much money here, they use influence and exert pressure so that they can stay here and keep on doing their losing businesses. Is that it?

* * *

VICE President Teofisto Guingona does not like the Asean Free Trade Agreement, or the Afta. As the front page photo showed, he even made a fist against it.

Actually, official talks on the Afta began during the time of Kuya Eddie. In that administration, one of the leading figures was . . . well, Guingona.

Why he did not went to the streets to protest against Afta then, is easy to explain. At that time, he did not get the order from the boss.

Anyway, local vehicle assemblers are also raising hell over Afta. I don't get it. They actually make money by importing. They hardly make anything here anymore.

Since Afta will cut the duties and taxes on imported vehicles, I thought it would be good for the vehicle assemblers. Low taxes mean low prices, which mean more sales.

Aha, but here's the clincher: Afta will actually apply on everybody, even individuals, who want to import cars and trucks, and not just on the vehicle assemblers.

You can do it yourself. Thus they can no longer fool you on the prices of their vehicles. Believe me, they have been fooling you all along!

* * *

FOR instance, a check through the Internet showed that the "suggested retail price" of a hot-selling car model here, as it was posted by the manufacturer, is only $8,500.

At current exchange rate, that's about P450,000. Here the same car model sells for close to P800,000. See what I mean?

That's why your friends in the vehicle assembly (import?) business are mad at the Afta, because it allows you to import cars at low duties and taxes on your own.

They also frighten you, saying the tariff cut will kill them. They say they cannot sell enough vehicles as it is, because of the popularity of secondhand imports. Hmm.

So vehicle assemblers argue that, since they are not selling enough units, the government should protect them by taking their industry out of Afta.

If that is so, how come people fall in line, and wait for eternity, just to buy any kind of brand new vehicle in this country? How come they even pay extra to get early delivery?

Maybe that's why they cannot sell enough. They don't have enough to sell. Intentionally, of course.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Docs can save tumor-affected bones

By Tessa R. Salazar

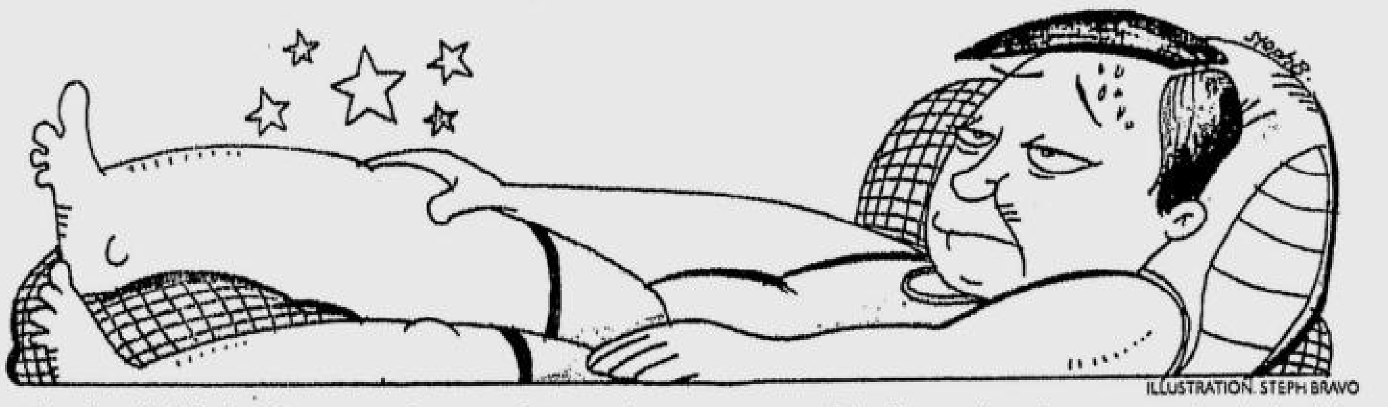


ILLUSTRATION. STEPH BRAVO

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy could not walk. The tumor in his leg grew bigger than his whole body. After several years, he was finally brought to the hospital. The tumor was taken out, his leg amputated.

A 50-year-old man's leg grew so big due to a leg tumor that he had to have his pants tailor made to fit. He waited seven years before he consulted a doctor.

Tumors not only grow in organs but also develop in bones, often in the legs, knees, arms, shoulder, pelvis and spine. Surgery is performed to remove the tumor and stop it from spreading. Before the 1970s amputation was the only recourse for people with malignant bone and soft tissue tumor of the extremities.

But with advances in imaging technology and medical oncology, as well as the development of more effective drugs to aid chemotherapy, patients have experienced improvements in their treatment response to the disease.

One such advancement in orthopedic oncology is called limb-saving surgery. It involves the removal of the tumor and reconstruction of the large defect or "hole" left by the tumor. This procedure preserves the function of the limb.

Meticulous procedure

Limb-saving surgery involves a meticulous dissection and protection of neurovascular structures and functional tissues in the affected area. Such operàtions take 10 to 12 hours.

"It's a very difficult surgery because aside from taking out the tumor you also have to take out normal tissue around it to make sure that you get everything," explained Dr. Edward HM Wang of the UP-Musculoskeletal Tumor Unit (UP-MuST Unit) at the Philippine General Hospital.

He said limb-saving surgery has saved the limbs and lives of those even with malignant tumors.

Limb-saving surgery is the result of progress on many fronts, not just in orthopedics. Diagnostic medicine, such as imaging technologies like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) where doctors can see details of the affected area without invasive surgery, has helped immensely.

"If you think about it, we only had X-rays before where you only saw the bone and a big lump. X-rays left more questions unanswered like 'where did the muscle end, where did the tumor begin, or where did the bone end and the tumor begin.' MRI shows you everything so clearly," Wang said.

Holistic concept

The holistic concept of tumor orthopedics and limb-saving surgery for malignant extremity tumors was introduced in Philippine medical practice in the late '80s.

The PGH set up the UP-MuST Unit in 1993. From then until 1999, it had performed 161 limb-sparing surgeries, 79 of which involved malignant tumors and 82 dealt with aggressive tumors.

"Treatment today has ceased to be the monopoly of the orthopedic surgeon. It involves an entire team including a bone tumor pathologist, radiologist, radiation, medical and pediatric oncologists, anesthesiologists, physiatrists, psychiatrists and nurses," Wang said.

He stressed that early consultation is still the best guarantee for effective treatment. Despite all the technological advances, Wang said that if a patient comes to the hospital too late, he may have to leave without a limb.

The limb salvage rate in the United States for all kinds of cancers of the leg is 90 percent. In the Philippines, it's about 50 percent.

"Compared to 10 years ago when everything was amputated, it's been a big improvement," Wang said.

Experts searching for answers to problem of 'kabag' in babies

RESEARCHERS say babies with "kabag" are not even in pain. In fact, they could even turn out better behaved than non-colicky ones. ERIK ARAZAS

CHICAGO—Although not a disease and considered by many experts to be ultimately harmless, colic (or *kabag* in Filipino) continues to fuel research and frustrate parents.

The main symptom is intense, inconsolable crying, and theories abound for its causes.

The name stems from a Greek word relating to the colon, and recent research blaming carbohydrate or protein intolerance supports the long-held notion that digestive problems sometimes may be involved.

But another, more provocative recent study gaining popularity among pediatricians says most cases may simply be the way some normal, healthy babies communicate.

This theory suggests that babies with colic aren't even in pain—despite all their purple-faced, clenched-fist crying.

Better survivors

It's borne out of a sort of "squeaky wheel gets the grease" evolutionary theory and M.W. de Vries' 1970s research on Africa's Masai tribe showing that more "difficult" babies survived a famine better than placid infants.

A newer study by Barbara Prudhomme White and longtime colic researcher Dr. Ronald Barr found that babies in the throes of colic had similar heart rates and levels of the stress hormone cortisol as babies without colic. While intense crying would seem to burn up lots of calories, the colicky babies didn't eat much more than calm babies and weren't any thinner.

While colic was described in ancient times, the modern definition dating from the 1950s includes crying spells occurring at least three hours daily, at least three times weekly, for at least three weeks in early infancy. Each hard-to-soothe episode can last several hours and typically occurs around the same time every day, often in the afternoon and evening.

The spells tend to peak at two months and gradually disappear by about three or four months. Nearly all babies have similar crying patterns, but those with colic are more intense, last longer and are harder to soothe, Barr said.

Colicky babies are sometimes gassy, a feature that has helped fuel digestive theories, but many doctors now think that occurs because crying incessantly involves swallowing a lot of air.

"The first time a baby doesn't stop crying, he really needs to be evaluated by a physician to make sure there is nothing else going on," said Dr. Bennett Kaye, a Chicago pediatrician.

If no underlying cause can be found, colic is the diagnosis.

While there is no cure, purported remedies abound.

"The mainstay of colic treatment is comforting, walking, soothing, swaddling," Kaye said. But he acknowledged that even that often doesn't work.

Research suggested that colic in some babies is caused by an inability to properly absorb sugars in some fruit juice. Juices containing the artificial sweetener sorbitol and high levels of fructose were the main offenders.

Dr. Fima Lifshitz, chief of nutrition at Miami Children's Hospital, said sugar that is not properly digested forms gas, which could explain the abdominal distention seen in some colicky babies.

The findings underscore the importance of recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics that babies younger than 6 months should not be given fruit juice.

Protein intolerance

Dr. Anthony Kulczycki Jr. published data two years ago suggesting that some colic due to an inability to digest proteins in cows' milk.

But Barr says evidence suggests fewer than 10 percent of colicky infants have protein intolerance. And those who do, he says, shouldn't be diagnosed with colic because the strict definition says there is no underlying ailment.

In a study of the !Kung San hunter-gatherers in Africa's Kalahari, Barr found that some of the tribe's infants had colic-like fits of inexplicable crying, but these were less intense than in babies from industrialized cultures.

He believes that's because !Kung San women "wear" their babies all day, allowing constant close maternal contact and nursing whenever the babies desire. That kind of constant contact often isn't possible in industrialized cultures, although Barr says keeping colicky babies close and swaddled can help.

Barr has plans to study whether infants with colic "end up being better-regulated infants later on." His proposed title would be, "Why I Hope My Next Kid Has Colic." *AP*

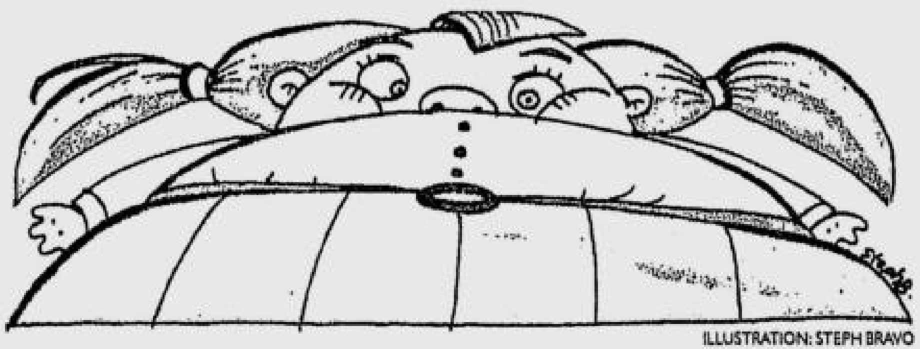


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Bariatric medicine: cheaper than liposuction

By Leah Salterio

THERE is now a better option to get rid of those unwanted pounds without the rigors of regular exercise, the ordeal of structured dieting or the horrors of surgery.

Bariatric medicine is prescribed for the treatment of obesity and its related conditions. Through appetite suppressants, an overweight individual can break the food addiction process and eventually trims down.

"The pills have an effect on the central nervous system, which tells the brain that you're full," explains Dr. Joel Mendez of the Weigh Less Center.

Says Mendez: "Through medication, you can control your appetite and adopt a sensible eating habit. That way, you'll eventually learn to manage your weight.,"

He learned about bariatric medicine in Maryland in 1995 through his older brother, a doctor with his own weigh less center in Baltimore. He says the pills have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"Even those with hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol level or hormonal problems can take the pills," says Mendez.

According to him, the usual side effect of the pills is insomnia. There can also be dryness in the mouth or throat.

Mendez advocates a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to losing weight where everything is medically supervised.

"I don't just prescribe the medicines, I also educate the client about the weight loss program," he says. "That way, they have an idea about the kind of medicines they're taking."

In the United States, he says, doctors who prescribe bariatric medicine even advocate behavior modification.

Says Mendez: "But that's not possible here because it's hard to change the lifestyle or eating habits of Filipinos. We grew up in this kind of lifestyle. My family, for instance, loves to eat. But if you take the pills you don't have to give up the food you love or skip meals. Bariatric medicine is an alternative for those who don't exercise."

Mendez corrects the notion that the appetite suppressants he uses are actually Bangkok pills.

"Bangkok pills are diuretics, which means you have to urinate often," explains Mendez. "They also serve as a laxative, which will make you move more than once a day. The diazepam component will make you sleepy and the ephedra can cause mitral valve problem."

For bariatric medicine Mendez charges P5,000 as enrolment fee plus P2,000 per pound that is lost.

"It's cheaper than liposuction," he stresses. "I don't believe in laser treatment, although I believe in surgery."

Women comprise nine of 10 of Mendez's patients, including a number of celebrities.

Fores memorial lecture held

TO SUPPORT ongoing efforts to help ostomates in the country, the Philippine Cancer Society Inc. (PCSI) recently held the 5th Dr. Jose Y. Fores Memorial Lecture and Workshop at the Makati Medical Center.

The lecture-workshop is an annual undertaking honoring PCSI's founding vice chair and president. It aims to upgrade the knowledge and skills of health professionals on various cancer topics.

This year's activity focused on the setting up of a stoma clinic to create more awareness on the needs of ostomates.

The lecturer was Dr. Alberto B. Roxas, PCSI board member, past president of the Philippine College of Surgeons and the secretary general of the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference to be held in Manila on Oct. 23-26. He talked on "Identifying Needs and Capabilities to Help Ostomates."

Alice Salamanca, one of only three enterostoma-therapy nurses in the country, and Jake Palacio, an ostomate, also spoke during the workshop. Participants later came up with a needs assessment, an organizational structure and an action plan to set up stoma clinics in their areas. At present, only the Philippine General Hospital has a stoma clinic.

The Dr. Jose Y. Fores lecture is part of the preparatory activities for the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference sponsored by the Department of Health, PCSI, Philippine Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and the Ostomy Association of the Philippines.

Gee, you smell like brewed coffee

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

IT'S 3 p.m. and the sun's rays show no sign of ceasing their merciless heat. Ducking into a nearby and not-exactly-inexpensive café, a young man orders a cup of espresso, dips his napkin into the liquid and proceeds to carefully slather his arms, neck and face with coffee. Then he heads back out into the sun-drenched streets, seemingly oblivious to his audience's stunned looks.

"Didn't you know?" he says just before exiting. "Coffee fights skin cancers."

This scenario could be played out all over the world in the near future if Allan Conney and his fellow researchers at Rutgers University are proven right. People will be reaching for cups of hot coffee instead of tubes of skin lotion.

Conney et al., in their paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said they experimented on hairless lab mice previously exposed to high levels of UV radiation and covered the animals' bodies with a mixture of either caffeine and acetone, EGCG (a powerful antioxidant found in green tea) and acetone or plain acetone.

Previous studies done by the group had already suggested that drinking green tea or coffee had beneficial effects on UVB skin cancers, but this was the first time the liquids were applied topically. After nearly five months of daily applications, the mice were killed and their conditions analyzed.

While all the mice had developed malignant skin tumors, those that had been covered in caffeine had approximately 70 percent fewer tumors than those covered in plain acetone. The mice covered in green tea had tumors reduced by slightly less. Fewer nonmalignant tumors were also found on the mice covered in caffeine (44 percent) and EGCG (55 percent).

Caffeine sunblock

Ordinary sunblock works by preventing UV rays from penetrating the skin. Caffeine, on the other hand, is supposed to work by making the skin cells already changed by UV rays commit suicide without affecting other normal cells.

Still, there are no guarantees that what works on hairless mice will work on not-quite-so hairless humans. And lest people start shaving themselves bald, I should point out that it all comes down to the fact that mice aren't humans. The next step then is to find human test subjects, preferably those who have already been diagnosed with skin cancers or are susceptible to them.

Conney's previous studies have shown that decaffeinated beverages don't work as well on skin cancers. Personally, I'm more interested in whether he uses instant or ground coffee for his experiments. (Yes, I know, he's using pure caffeine extract, but instant doesn't taste as good as freshly brewed. It makes you wonder though.)

Will caffeinated sunblock hit the market anytime soon? Not likely.

But if it does, people may once again be proud of their own natural skin tones instead of trying to be as white as possible. Starbucks and other chains may even come out with their own line of skincare products. Text messages will debate the merits of smelling like mochaccino as opposed to the beloved *barako* or Colombian Supreme. Chinese restaurants will bask in the knowledge that they've been keeping their customers healthy with the pot of tea that appears as soon as their diners take a seat. (Conney, however, says EGCG is less stable than caffeine and is therefore less safe to use.) Those addicted to caffeine highs will never fall asleep at work again, which should delight employers everywhere.

Skin cancer is a serious condition that may lead to death, or at least unsightly scars and blotches. Any means of protection that one uses—staying out of direct sunlight a couple of hours before and after noon, wearing sunblock, sunscreen or any makeup that offers UV protection, and wearing caps or using umbrellas—can only serve to benefit people in the long run.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

And if drinking a cup of coffee, or pouring it all over oneself (preferably lukewarm), will help, then by all means, try it.

But I'd advise against drinking one's coffee at noon at a sidewalk café; that's just tempting fate.

(Editor's note: Massie K. Santos has a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry from the Wesleyan University, Connecticut. She has interests in several fields and is co-author of a biology textbook for high school sophomores. She can be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Smoking causes infant death; red wine good for the heart

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

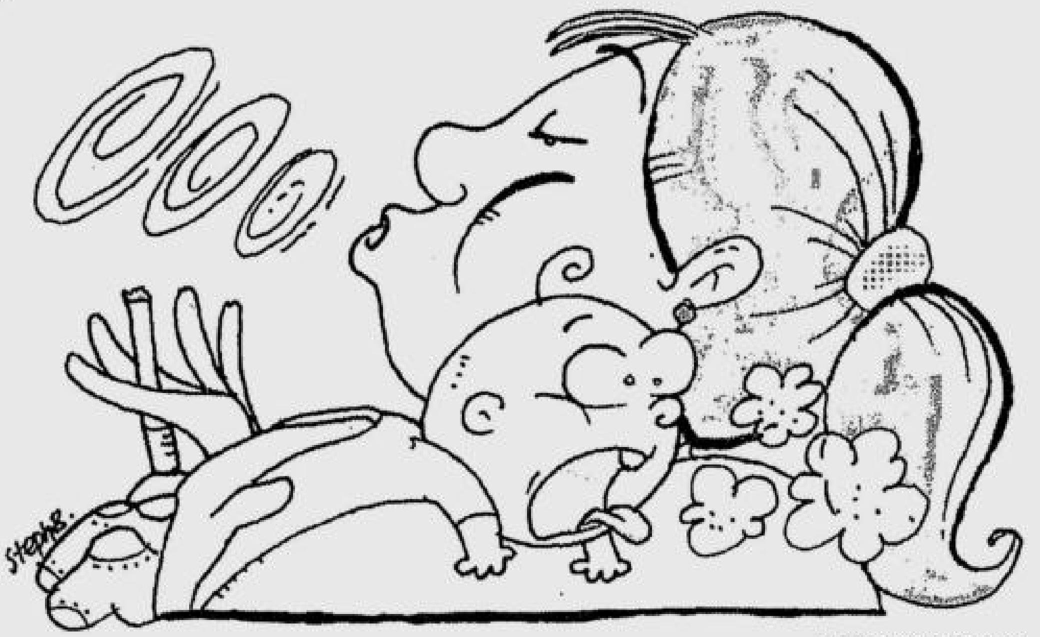


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

BERLIN, Germany—It's about time parents who smoke become more responsible. They may not realize it, but they're predisposing their children to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), according to a study presented before the 24th congress of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

Italian researchers Elisabetta Cerbai and Alessandro Mugelli presented scientific evidence showing a relationship between smoking during pregnancy and SIDS, which is the most common cause of death among newborns. The tragic impact on families of SIDS victims is immeasurable. This undoubtedly will become more with the realization that the parents, especially the mother, who smoke may have contributed to their baby's premature death.

SIDS has long baffled researchers. Its causes are multiple—some have been identified but others are still unknown. Recent data show that exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) either directly from the smoking mother or indirectly from the smoking father causes irregularity in the infant's heart rhythm and this may lead to sudden death. This exposure to CO may have started while the baby was still in the womb.

In the Italian study sponsored by the Telethon Foundation and Scottish Death Trust, scientists at the Universities of Florence, Rome and Bari used mice to simulate intrauterine exposure to the toxic components of cigarette smoke. The serious adverse effect on the fetus' heart, particularly its rhythm, leading to sudden death was alarming.

A chronic exposure to CO, simulating carboxyhemoglobin levels from a cigarette smoker, was done. A study of the mice offspring showed a delayed maturation of some physiologic processes in the heart, which is responsible for SIDS.

The group is continuing its research to ascertain its findings, but these and other research data strongly suggest that prenatal exposure to cigarette smoke affects the maturation of the infant's heart, which may increase the baby's risk to SIDS.

This senseless exposure of infants to SIDS is taking place in thousands, probably millions, of households every day.

That was the bad news. Now, the good news.

In another symposium during the ESC meeting, Spanish researchers headed by Prof. Lina Badimon of the Department of Molecular Pathology and Therapeutics Cardiovascular Research Center in Barcelona showed additional convincing evidence that moderate red wine consumption benefits the heart and lowers the incidence of heart-related deaths.

The key word, however, is moderation.

Heavy drinkers showed an excessively high incidence of heart diseases and deaths compared to nondrinkers or moderate drinkers. If you cannot drink moderately, it's better not to drink at all.

The so-called French paradox, which is based on the observation that rural French populations have a lower incidence of cardiovascular deaths despite their high fat diet, has been the subject of much research.

The Spanish researchers demonstrated that moderate intake of alcohol (equivalent to less than 400 ml of red wine daily for adults) significantly reduces thrombotic risk even if the experimental animals lived on high fat diets.

The anti-thrombotic effect of red wine was reflected by a 30 to 40 percent reduction of platelet deposition on mildly and severely damaged blood vessel walls. They have also identified the specific protein (Rho-A protein) involved in the blood-clotting process.

Professor Badimon's study supports the hypothesis that moderate consumption of red wine confers a protective effect on the blood vessel, which may help prevent heart attacks and possibly strokes.

One to two glasses should be healthy, but beyond this, excessive alcohol may also cause a serious heart problem called alcoholic cardiomyopathy wherein the heart muscles weaken and fail, causing shortness of breath and easy fatigability.

I drink only on rare occasions, and I don't usually drink while I'm writing. But I think I'll drink to this research on drinking moderately.

Classroom humor

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE PAST month has been a flurry of midterm exams, hurried lectures and make-up classes. (Student glee notwithstanding, the news of another typhoon strikes us faculty with dread since we still have to finish the same amount of material.) In this melee, humor definitely can help one cope. To console myself, I started reading forwarded jokes (which I usually delete without opening). Here are some snippets to provide much-needed humor. Some may be trite, I agree, but sometimes puns (however lame) still serve a purpose:

Teacher: Maria, why are you doing your math multiplication exercises on the floor?

Maria: You told me to do them without using tables!

* * *

Teacher: Juan, go to the map and find the Philippines.

Juan: Here it is!

Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered the Philippines?

Class: Juan!

* * *

Fely: Dad, can you write in the dark?

Dad: I think so. What do you want me to write?

Fely: Your name on this report card.

* * *

Teacher: How do you prevent diseases caused by biting insects?

Jose: Don't bite any.

* * *

Teacher: Elena, give me a sentence starting with "I."

Elena: I is…

Teacher: No, Elena. Always say, "I am."

Elena: "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."

* * *

Teacher: What is the chemical formula for water?

Sarah: HIJKLMNO.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Sarah: Yesterday, you said it's H to O.

* * *

Teacher: Willy, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

Willy: Me!

* * *

Teacher: Now Sammy, tell me honestly, do you say your prayers before eating?

Sammy: No, Sir. I don't have to. My mom is a good cook.

* * *

Teacher: What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Pupil: A teacher.

The last bit may be hilarious, but it's often true.

For more of these, go to my Mind Games column this week. Log on to www.inq7.net, click Infotech, and look for Mind Games. Those with nice bits of classroom humor can pass them on to me. Laughter, after all, is always good medicine.

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D., is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Contact her at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Sterilizing instruments

HOW do I know if my dentist is sterilizing his instruments before he uses them on me? Is it okay to ask him?

—*Rita B.*

It is okay to ask your dentist. Nobody wants to get someone else's germs during their dental visit. Most dentists will be happy to show their method of sterilization to their patients.

Preventing the spread of diseases such as AIDS, herpes, hepatitis and even the common cold concerns all of us.

Once you enter a dental office, it must evoke a feeling of cleanliness. To protect your health, the dentist changes his gloves between each patient. Protective eyewear and a facemask are musts. Instruments are sterilized by heat, pressure or chemical solutions. All these prevent cross infection from dentist to patient, patient to dentist and patient to patient.

(The author is a general and cosmetic dentist licensed here and in the United States. Your questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Why facial centers should be regulated

By Grace Carole P. Beltran, MD
Contributor

ONE cannot ignore the overwhelming increase in the number of facial centers in the country.

Putting up a facial center is as easy as having a *carinderia* (eatery) or a *sari-sari* (variety) store—all you need is a business permit and capital to buy the necessary gadgets. There is no law that regulates facial centers in the country.

Forget about the training or skill of the facial center staff. These are not necessary nowadays. Forget about knowledge of the skin and the complications that could develop with every wrong move. Complications do occur, but only in about 10 to 40 percent of the customers anyway. Besides, those who had developed complications never bothered to file a complaint because it was not life threatening anyway. The hassle of filing a case, paying for lawyer's fees, wasting precious time following up legal matters—most victims feel it's not worth it.

The availability of a cheap option in a classy setting is very attractive to those who want to improve their looks. Never mind if infections set in or malignant complications occur or if acne is made worse by severe scarring or there are cardiovascular complications or risk of severe irritation and contact dermatitis or permanent depigmentation.

Expertise necessary

Certain procedures require a thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology and other conditions that may contraindicate the use of medical equipment such as cautery and laser, which are offered in many facial centers. Some centers even offer botox injections, which must be properly handled and performed only by experts.

These centers claim that they have house doctors. But these doctors are not even in the center to supervise their staff—people who underwent training for just two weeks to one month. Compare this extremely brief training period to the four years of premedicine and another three years of rigid hands-on training required for many procedures offered in facial centers.

Many casualties

It's a pity that many professionals allow themselves to be a part of this huge fraud to legalize such businesses. More regrettable is the fact that these facial centers already have so many casualties.

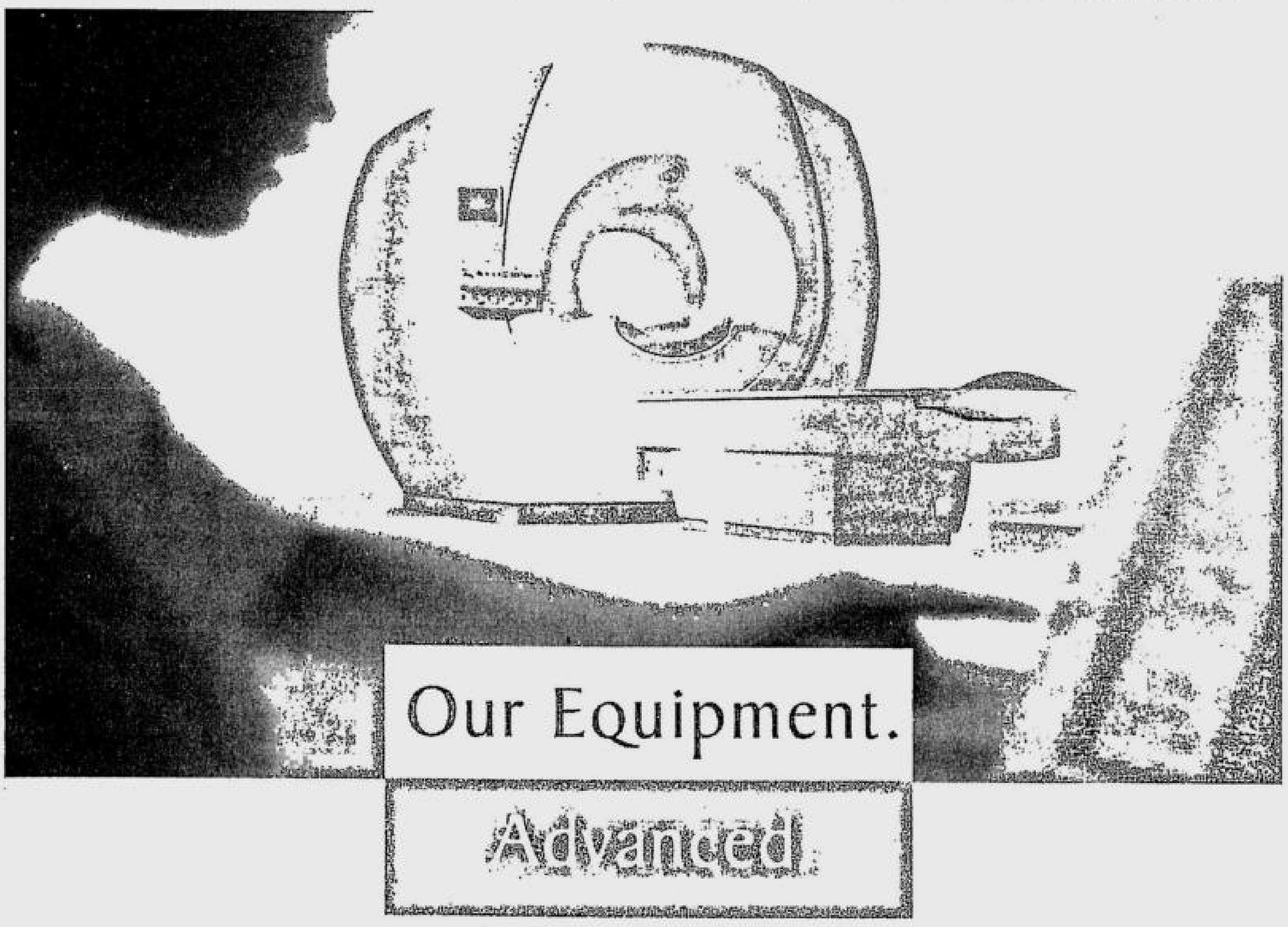
I remember a patient who died of severe infection after having a facial. Two other victims had to be confined in the ICU after having a body peel.

Selling regulated topical medicines to customers without a doctor's prescription is illegal. Recruiting untrained personnel to do procedures that should only be done by doctors is illegal. The use of medical instruments by untrained people when a doctor's competence is necessary is also illegal.

It's time this illegal practice is put to an end. Government should invite the Philippine Dermatological Society to help resolve this urgent matter. The Society is in the best position to help formulate a law that would regulate facial centers.

My suggestion to the many customers of facial centers is for them to ask questions first from a medical professional before undergoing medical treatment. Remember that a complication can be permanent. Worse, a complication can be life threatening.

(Dr. Beltran is a licensed dermatologist.)



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War talk and weak data bring down Asian stocks

STEVE Forbes, editor in chief, Forbes Magazine, speaks on the Asian economy and the likelihood of a US attack on Iraq and its consequences at The American Chamber of Commerce Leadership Luncheon in Hong Kong. AFP

SINGAPORE—Asian markets slumped on Friday, with Japanese shares touching another 19-year low, after a slew of economic reports deepened fears of an economic slowdown in the United States.

The dollar made some headway against the yen, which was knocked down in Asian trade by the weakness in Japanese equities, but worries about US share markets and possible US military action in Iraq blunted any momentum for the greenback.

On Thursday, US Treasuries and gold climbed, as unnerved investors sought protection from the stock sell-off and oil prices jumped because of falling inventories in the United States.

US shares fell after a report showed the US services sector, which makes up roughly 80 percent of the economy, grew less than expected last month.

Soggy August retail sales data and the drumbeats of war also had investors on edge. US President George W. Bush said on Thursday he would soon make the case to world leaders that "history has called the US into action" against Iraq.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average fell 1.01 percent to 9,129.07, with electronics exporters, such as Canon Inc., notably weak.

"We seem to be heading toward a dangerous vicious circle where selling begets selling. I think the Nikkei will head toward 8,800 in the near term," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, head of equities at Credit Lyonnais in Tokyo.

At 0545 GMT, the dollar was around 118.28 yen, about the same level as in late New York trade, while the euro had edged up to $0.9929 from $0.9915 in late New York.

NYMEX crude futures were trading at $29.18 per barrel in Asian morning trade, up 20 cents from New York, where it settled 71 cents higher at $28.98 after weekly data showed inventories in the world's largest consumer below normal ahead of peak US winter demand.

Korean stocks were lower, but the market took solace from strength in foreign-investor favorite Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. Samsung firmed 0.3 percent thanks to a recovery in US technology stocks, which recovered in after-hours trade after earnings guidance from tech bellwether Intel Corp. was not as bad as some had feared.

Hong Kong stocks were trading slightly weaker after having fallen 6.7 percent the past two weeks. By 0600 GMT, the Hang Seng Index was down 0.5 percent at 9,680.2.

Fixed-line telephone operator PCCW Ltd. lost 1.5 percent after posting a worse-than-expected first half net loss. The company's share price has fallen 40 percent so far this year.

Australian stocks fell, pressured by globally exposed blue chips, which lost ground on concerns about the sluggish US economy and a possible strike on Iraq.

The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index closed 0.8 percent lower at 3,089.5.

Singapore's blue chip shares moved higher after a shaky start, but Datacraft Asia Ltd. slid after the company confirmed a criminal investigation into its affairs was ongoing, despite speculation it had ended.

Taiwan markets were closed on Friday due to the approach of a major typhoon. *Reuters*

US bonds rise, stocks fall on economy worries

NEW YORK—US stocks fell and bond prices rose, dropping yields to new 40-year lows, on Thursday amid signs the US economic recovery will be slower than expected.

The dollar was mixed while oil prices rose on a drop in US supplies and escalating fears of US military action against Iraq.

Stocks fell after a report showing the key US services sector grew less than expected last month.

The Institute for Supply Management said its monthly non-manufacturing index unexpectedly fell in August to 50.9, showing a lackluster pace of growth, from 53.1 in July. A number above 50 indicates growth in the sector.

Investors are worried a slower US economic recovery will crimp corporate profits as the season for companies to signal the direction of third-quarter earnings approaches.

"The whole thing points to a soft economy, which leads people to be worried about the earnings pre-announcement season that's coming up," said Henry Herrmann, chief investment officer at Waddell & Reed.

"We're just not getting enough of an 'oomph' to make people feel good about positive earnings surprises."

In other economic news, claims for first-time unemployment benefits fell in the last week of August but remained above the 400,000 level usually associated with a rise in the overall jobless rate. Some dealers laid down bets that a key report on the US employment situation due on Friday would be weak.

The tech-laced Nasdaq Composite Index closed at its lowest level in a month, down 41.31 points, or 3.20 percent, at 1,251.00.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrials fell 141.42 points, or 1.68 percent, to 8,283.70, and the broad Standard & Poor's 500 dropped 14.25 points, or 1.60 percent, to 879.15.

Intel Corp., the world's largest chip maker, fell nearly 6 percent, down $1 to $15.11, in the regular session on apprehension about its business update.

Later, Intel tightened its revenue expectations for the third quarter to slightly less than $6.6 billion, but the guidance was better than many had feared. Intel's shares rose to $15.61 on the Instinet electronic brokerage system from $15.11 at Thursday's close.

The rise in Treasury prices was fed by weakness in stocks and expectations of low interest rates.

"Stocks are under pressure and Treasuries are attractive on two fronts: as a pure asset allocation play and because the more that stocks are troubled, the more the Fed will be predisposed to keep interest rates low, or lower," said Paul McCulley, managing director and portfolio manager at Pacific Investment Management Co. in Newport Beach, Calif.

Benchmark 10-year note yields tumbled to 3.93 percent, down from 4.13 percent at the start of the week.

After a whipsaw session, the dollar steadied as currency traders readied for Friday's US jobs report.

The euro rose as high as 99.91 cents overnight but then turned tail to trade nearly flat with the dollar at 99.24 cents.

The dollar, after trading lower against the yen overnight, was up 0.25 percent on the day at 118.26 yen.

The US non-farm payrolls report due Friday is expected to show an addition of 37,000 jobs in August after an anemic 6,000 increase in July.

European shares slashed their losses but still ended mostly down on Thursday.

The FTSE Eurotop 300 index of European blue chips closed down 0.6 percent at 899 points, having been almost 2.5 percent weaker in earlier trade. The narrower DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index fell 0.9 percent to 2,511 points.

US crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange, settled 71 cents higher to $28.98 a barrel, after reaching as high as $29.02 a barrel. *Reuters*

Spending spree can't sustain Thai economic boom

BANGKOK—Strong domestic consumption has powered Thailand's growth spurt this year despite a chilly external environment, but analysts said that is no substitute for its traditional reliance on strong exports and investment.

Low interest rates and stronger consumer confidence has helped lift the Thai economy to what the government projects will be growth of 4-4.5 percent this year against last year's 1.8 percent expansion in the gross domestic product (GDP).

Bank of Thailand statistics show that as of July, Thais were buying 4.9 percent more than last year.

But a consumer boom will give only temporary relief if export growth remains anemic and private investment stays sluggish—hamstrung by a sputtering US economy and flagging economic restructuring since Asia's financial crisis of five years ago.

Analysts say you can't simply spend your way to riches.

"Consumption is a function of income. Not vice versa," said Supavud Saicheua, managing director of Merrill Lynch Phatra. "It's true that in the short-run consumption can kickstart the economy. But you consume out of what? Mostly current and future income."

And there's a limit to mining the Thai consumer for growth.

"It will hit a ceiling," said Andrew Stotz, finance sector analyst at SG Asia Securities. "There are excesses in every market at different times."

Exports are Thailand's traditional engine of growth, generating nearly 60 percent of gross domestic product. But they have been stunted this year by sluggish growth in the United States, one of Thailand's biggest export customers.

As a result, exports in the first half of 2002 contracted 1.76 percent. This prompted Thailand's commerce ministry to scale down its 2002 export forecast to 3.5 percent from 5.6 percent.

Analysts say long-term growth needs strong exports.

"It's like a marathon where 200 guys are running. You're competing with everyone, so your product must be good," said Supavud. "But in the long run, which is the bigger market? Thailand, with 60 million consumers, or the rest of the world?"

Unlike Hong Kong and Singapore, which have smaller populations and are more dependent on exports for income, "countries like Thailand . . . are large enough to have a domestic economy to support growth," said John Tan, fixed-income strategist at Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore.

With the outlook for exports shaky due to turbulence abroad, policymakers have been banking on increased consumption to improve business sentiment and in turn boost private investment.

While production has ratcheted up to meet consumer demand, investment remains low because increased output is simply taking up the slack left in manufacturing capacity. *Reuters*

Japan to adopt new measures to spur economy

TOKYO—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Friday that he would adopt fresh measures to stimulate Japan's sagging economy and fight a slump in the stock market, which is skirting around 19-year lows.

"We will go ahead with economic and financial measures to prevent uncertainties," the premier said.

But Koizumi stopped short of unveiling further details of the plan.

He made the remarks as the key Nikkei-225 average blundered briefly through the crucial 9,000-point level in morning trade. The benchmark index later recovered slightly, ending the day at 9,129.07 points, down one percent.

Koizumi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party agreed Friday to compile a new plan to halt deflation and boost the economy, the Jiji Press news agency said.

Senior LDP officials, including LDP secretary general Taku Yamasaki, agreed to outline the plan in time for a meeting between Koizumi and US President George W. Bush when they meet in New York on Sept. 12, it said.

"If we take no measures, interim corporate results to be released later this month will be severe," one of the participants into the LDP meeting said, according to Jiji.

Koizumi is expected to hold an emergency meeting on Monday with Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, Financial Services Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa and other key ministers to discuss the economic measures, according to Kyodo News Agency.

The measures may include the reinforcement of bad-debt buyback functions of a state-run financial institution, tax cuts and the swift implementation of a national budget, Kyodo said, quoting government sources.

But expectations from the planned measures are already low.

"Investors have been disappointed several times by the government's previously announced anti-deflation measures," said Chuo Securities investment manager Akira Nakamura.

"I think this time, lip service by politicians will not work. Investors are waiting for proper measures," Nakamura said.

Earlier in the day, Shiokawa said the government must consider the impact on the economy of the weak stock market before taking any action.

"Before considering any stock market measures, we need to first discern the possible effects of the recent stock market tumble on the economy, as well as the possibility of the US stock market declines creating havoc on the Japanese stock market from now on," Shiokawa told reporters.

"Anyway, we should not hurry in making a conclusion on any stock market measures at this time," he added.

Japan is under pressure to boost economic growth as stock prices slump on bourses worldwide due to concerns about a global economic downturn. *AFP*

Citigroup may pay $200M to settle dispute with FTC

NEW YORK—Citigroup Inc. is close to an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission to pay about $200 million to settle allegations of "predatory lending" to consumers, The Wall Street Journal reported in its online edition Friday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The talks could still fall apart—settlement talks between the two have failed before—but both sides believe an agreement could be announced this month, the Journal reported.

If Citigroup, the largest US financial-services company, ultimately pays around $200 million, it would be the largest consumer-protection settlement with the FTC and by far the biggest amount ever paid in a predatory-lending case, according to the Journal article.

Predatory lending is generally viewed as mortgage lending that unfairly takes advantage of consumers, especially those with poor credit histories, through abusive practices such as deceptive marketing or unnecessary refinancings to generate fees, according to the Journal article.

The proposed FTC settlement would end a suit filed by the commission in a federal court in Atlanta in March 2001 against Associates First Capital Corp., a Dallas-based sub-prime lender that Citigroup acquired in November 2000 for $27 billion.

Citigroup and its own consumer-finance unit, CitiFinancial, into which Associates was merged, also are defendants.

Among the alleged abuses that occurred at Associates: deceptive marketing practices; inducing borrowers to unknowingly purchase optional insurance on loans, and abusive debt-collecting practices. *Reuters*

Procter & Gamble raises Q1 earnings outlook

CHICAGO—Giant consumer products maker Procter & Gamble Co. on Thursday raised its quarterly earnings forecast for the fourth straight quarter, boosted by a strong performance in products like Crest Spinbrush and its Actonel osteoporosis drug.

Strength in developing markets like Central and Eastern Europe and China, as well as the Clairol hair-care business purchased last year, were also helping to boost earnings, the company said.

The maker of such household names as Tide laundry detergent, Pringles potato chips and Charmin toilet paper said it expects core earnings for its first quarter ending in September to be up in the mid-teens, or 14 percent to 16 percent, on a percentage basis, excluding restructuring charges.

That would bring earnings to as high as $1.11 a share and compares with a previous forecast of a gain of 11 percent to 15 percent.

Analysts on average forecast earnings of $1.09 a share, with a range of $1.08 a share to $1.10 a share, compared with 96 cents a year ago, according to market research firm Thomson First Call.

P&G's full-year earnings forecast of a double-digit core per-share gain remains unchanged, the company said.

"They're hitting on all cylinders," said Jim Gingrich, consumer products analyst at Sanford Bernstein.

P&G shares closed up $1.29, or 1.5 percent, at $89.85 in Thursday midday trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

P&G over the past two years has turned its business around with a massive restructuring program that has eliminated a sizable chunk of factory space and thousands of jobs as the company focused its efforts on the biggest brands in its largest markets.

The stock, which has also benefited from investors moving funds into companies that make basic goods consumers need even in a sluggish economy, has gained more than 13 percent this year, outperforming the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI , which has fallen more than 17 percent.

But analysts cautioned that it would be tougher for the company to continue beating its forecasts as it becomes harder to wring out more savings.

"One would suspect that as the benefit from restructuring savings start to get smaller, the company's flexibility to guide higher will be slightly reduced," said William Steele, analyst at Banc of America Securities. *Reuters*

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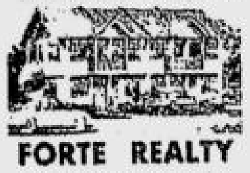

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Interested parties may send their 2x2 picture and resume to:

Hokei Subic Corporation
Human Resource Department
#40 Golden Future Street corner Aim High Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Philippines 2222

PUBLIC NOTICES

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WEEK-END MRKT.
AT ROXAS BLVD.
START: OCT. 12, P200/day
Hall8, Phil. Trade Center
Roxas Blvd. (across DFA)
Inquire at D Site
or Call Tel# 4101782
0917-8400026

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **LOURDES M. ALGARA** has been extra-judicially settled per Doc. No. 331, Page 68, Book VI of Atty. Rosalynn S. Reyes.
(PDI- Aug. 31, Sept. 7, & 13, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Young and growing Singapore Company exponentially expanded to 13 Countries in 4 years.
Looking for dynamic partners in Manila to expand internationally.
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Come for limited period FREE preview call: 0916591-2035 or 0916-591-2036 to book limited seats.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **NOEMI L. RAGUINDIN** Consisting of Real Property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among his heirs as per Doc. #684; Page #127; Bk#1; Series of 2002. Before Notary Public **BENJAMIN C. TIONGSON** of Quezon City.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

That JR. Estrada & Sons. Inc. Stock Cert. No's 006, 012, 018, 024, 031, 036, 042, 049, and 054 under the name of Lourdes E. Ustaris was lost. If uncontested new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept 7,4,21,2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
FOR SALE
Chinese Restaurant's Rights and Goodwill, Equipments located along busy M. Adriatico Street Malate, Manila
For inquiry please call:
Tel. Nos. 740-2873/74 or
Cel No. 0918-9280928
Look for Daniel

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"
for the SALE of

UNUSED NPC TUGBOAT "MV MASINLOC"

DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

The National Power Corporation will receive sealed bids on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis for the tugboat described below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION		LOCATION
One (1) unit Unused Tugboat, 3000 PS, Acquired in 1998, "MV Masinloc"		Naga, Cebu
Length (Overall, without rubber fender/sheat)	33.30 meter (approx.)	
Breadth (molded)	9.20 meter	
Depth (molded)	3.90 meter	
Designed Load Draught (molded)	2.90 meter	
Gross Tonnage (international)	310.00 tons	
Loading Capacity	80.00 tons (approximate)	
MAIN DIESEL ENGINES		
Make	Mitsubishi	
No. of Units	2 units	
No. of Cylinder	6 cylinders	
Max. Continuous Output	1500 PS @ 1150 rpm	
Normal Output	1350 PS @ 1110 rpm	

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) at the Office of the Asset Disposal Project (ADP), Third Floor, Building No. 1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 2:00 PM on **SEPTEMBER 24, 2002** at the NPC Solarium, NPC Head Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management (PSALM) Corporation have concurred with the bidding process and clearance for the disposal was duly approved.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required informality, and to accept such bids that is most advantageous to the Government.

Additional information may be obtained from Asset Disposal Project office at telephone nos. 922-3970, and 921-3541 loc. 5582.

(Sgd.) **LEVI C. ARABELO**
Manager, ADP & BNPP and Chairman
Task Force for the Disposal of Tugboat MV Masinloc

(PDI – Sep 6, 7 & 8, 2002)

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.

PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc. through its Asset Management Committee (AMC) invites interested buyers to re-bid on any of the items listed below. The submission of all bid proposals will be on **September 11, 2002** to the AMC Secretariat, 2/F Postal Bank Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila (look for Maris). The schedule of opening of bids/proposals will be on **September 16, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., at 2F PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila

Code No.	Location	Land Data	Floor Price
01	Brgy. Silang Junction West Tagaytay City	10,000 sqm. subdivision lot	P22M
02	Cherry Homes Compound E. Rodriguez Ave., Moonwalk Village, Brgy. La Huerta Parañaque City	303 sqm. house & lot	P1.914M
03	Imperial Royale Townhouse Brgy. Talon Dos (Pamplona) Las Piñas	66 sqm. house & lot	P1.518M
04	• Site 1 (315 N-W side of P. Herrera St. 25 meters N-W or 2 lots away from Pateros Nat. H.S.	277 sqm. lot	P693,000.00
05	• Site 2 (N-E corner of S. Castillo & C. Sexon Sts., 200 meters N-E from Pateros Nat. H.S. within Brgy. Tavacalera	166 sqm. lot	P1.063M
	• Site 3 (#287 N-E side of S. Castillo St. 2 lots away from site 2	201 sqm. lot	P1.725M
06	Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Cubao Quezon City	70 sqm. lot	P980,000.00
07	Brgy. Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan	819 sqm. lot	P1.47M
08	Km Post 439 Brgy. Balao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro	2,520 sqm. lot & cockpit	P504,000.00
09	Torre, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement, Lot is along Provincial Road of Urbiz, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	300 sqm. house & lot	P502,858.00
10	Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with improvement, Lot is near right at the slope of the mountain	2,044 sqm. house & lot	P506,100.00
11	Azurin Subd., San Jose, Antique	307 sqm. Residential lot	P460,500.00
12	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,249 sqm. Residential lot	P168,000.00
13	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,248.5 sqm. Residentail lot	P146,000.00
14	Maguilling, Piat, Cagayan	1,500 sqm. Agri. lot	P180,000.00
15	Basi, Solana, Cagayan	1,012 sqm. Residential lot	P86,000.00
16	Gaiarin, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,351 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P737,660.00
17	Real Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	11,651 sqm. Residential/ Agricultural	P913,750.00
18	Alos, Alaminos, Pangasinan	3,410 sqm. Residential lot	P862,600.00
19	No. 42 Whitefield Street, White Plains Quezon City (Title for Reconstitution)	437 sqm. Residential lot	P9.161M

Code No. (Chattels)			Minimum Bid Price
20	1 unit	1995 Toyota Tamaraw FX (TSE-132)	P168,750.00
21	1 unit	1996 Toyota Tamaraw FX (SFK-709)	P160,000.00
22	1 unit	Daewoo Racer GTI Model 1995 (SFT-104)	P 98,000.00
23	1 unit	Daewoo Prince Ace Model 1997 (USD-970)	P320,000.00
24	1 unit	Mitsubishi Canter (Armor Car with Plate No. SFK 719)	P586,000.00

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the Code No., corresponding to the property/chattels written on the face of the envelope. A deposit equivalent to 10% of the total offer is required upon acceptance of the proposal.

For chattels, a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check/ Cashier's Check only should be submitted with the proposal.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/bid considered most advantageous.

For further information, please call 527-0057, 525-9394 loc. 103.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN A. REMODO**
Chairman - AMC

(PDI – Sept. 6 & 7, 2002)

Office of the President

PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(PhilRice)
Central Experiment Station
Science City of Muñoz
Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested parties are hereby invited to prequalify for the 1. Construction of the Seed Health Laboratory, and 2. Construction of the Biotechnology Laboratory, and 3. 3 Dr. apt. at the Central Experiment Station of PhilRice, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Application for prequalification is extended to Filipino contracting firms with valid license issued by PCAB of at least "Category A" and "Medium A" for General Building (for projects 1, 2) and "Cat B small B" for the 3-Dr Apt (local contractors only) Financial capacity, good track record, and specialty of office buildings and laboratories are required for all interested parties.

Prequalification Documents shall be available for issuance during office hours from **September 10, 2002** to **September 12, 2002** at the Internal Audit Office, Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Administration, PhilRice, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. All are required to submit a letter of intent addressed to the PhilRice Director, and presentation of the original, unexpired PCAB license. Representatives of the contractors must present a notarised attorney-in fact authorizing him/her to represent the company in obtaining the forms. Prequalification forms shall be released upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. Submission of accomplished Pre-C forms shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **September 19, 2002** at the same office and address.

Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the biddings.

PhilRice reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon notice of prequalification.

(Sgd.) **LEOCADIO S. SEBASTIAN**
Executive Director

(PDI Aug 30 31 Sept 7 & 8 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

LIST OF SSS ACQUIRED ASSETS FOR PUBLIC BIDDING
ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2002

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 413519 w/ 4BR & 2T&B fairly maintained single detached bungalow	L1 B10 Sky Lane (Peaceful Lane) Monterey Subd., San Mateo, Rizal	770,100.00
2.	150 sq.m. TCT No. 250284 w/ 2BR & 1T&B deteriorated bungalow	L14 B17 Lirio St., Antipolo Hills Subd., San Luis, Antipolo City	289,700.00
3.	257 sq.m. TCT No. 9775 w/ 4BR & 1T&B deteriorated, 2 storey residence	482 (Interior) M.L. Quezon St., Taguig, MM	484,000.00
4.	179.50 sq.m. TCT M-37940 unfinished one storey structure	Lot 1-A-1 Tayuman, Binangonan, Rizal	928,700.00
5.	187 sq.m. TCT No. R-768 w/ 2BR & 1T&B deteriorated single unit	L 7-B Grace Homes, Antipolo City	313,100.00
6.	136 sq.m. TCT No. 2559 w/ 1T&B cannibalized 1-storey residence	L10 B2 Hazel St., Piedra Blanca, Antipolo City	270,100.00
7.	195 sq.m. TCT No. 412785 w/ 4BR and 2T&B two-storey house	L9 B2 Vista Nila Homes, Parang, Marikina City	487,500.00
8.	200 sq.m. TCT No. 187574 w/ 2BR and 1T&B abandoned bungalow	L272-B-7-B San Guillermo St., (Interior) Putatan, Muntinlupa City	268,800.00
9.	170 sq.m. TCT No. 661298 w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained single detached bungalow	L25 B6 Daisy St., Cainta Greenland Subd., Cainta, Rizal	771,400.00
10.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 250263 w/ 2BR and 1 T&B well maintained bungalow	L10-C-9-B Acacia St., Espiritu Cmpd., Montalban, Rizal	354,900.00
11.	264 sq.m. TCT No. 500249-R cannibalized/ not livable bungalow	L16 B16 Hizon St., Mamatitang Mabalacat, Pampanga	202,100.00
12.	216 sq.m. TCT No. 500237-R w/ 2BR and 1 T&B deteriorated 1-storey residence	L19 B42 No. 2843 Yellowbell St., Brgy. Village, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	182,600.00
13.	450 sq.m. TCT No. 498442-A w/ 4BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	Lot 1600-A Joven St., Babo Sacan, Porac, Pampanga	455,800.00
14.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 332768-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L33 B57 Ubas St., Dau Homesite Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	395,000.00
15.	153 sq.m. TCT No. 498751-R w/ 3BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3826-J-1 Jasmin St., Purok Gloria II Subd., Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	294,300.00
16.	214 sq.m. TCT No. 490932-R w/ 3BR & 2T&B Poorly maintained 1-storey single unit	Lot 1 065 Ilang-Ilang St., Purok Gloria Subd., Sindalan San Fernando, Pampanga	420,600.00
17.	200 sq.m. TCT No. 333764-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B deteriorated 1-storey duplex	L10 B2 St. Anthony Subd., Bo. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	417,100.00
18.	204 sq.m. TCT No. 488348-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	L10 B13 Doña Anastacia Subd., Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	278,500.00
19.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 506885-R w/ 2BR and 1 T&B poorly maintained bungalow	L4 B5 San Francisco, Mabalacat, Pampanga	292,900.00
20.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 506883-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	L16 B14 Villa Teodora Subd., Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	280,900.00
21.	298 sq.m. TCT No. 506234-R w/ 3BR and 2T&B fairly maintained bungalow	L24 B2 No. 164 Casmor Subd., Ph. I, Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	666,700.00
22.	160 sq.m. TCT No. 494336-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3826-M-5 Nos. 226/228 Rosal St., Purok Gloria II Subd., Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	425,300.00
23.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 492224-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	L24 B53 Malusog St., Dau Homesite, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	389,000.00
24.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 506879-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B poorly maintained bungalow	L26 B62 No. 6136 Dau Homesite Subd., Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga	365,600.00
25.	150 sq.m. TCT No. 118499 w/ 4BR & 1T&B fairly maintained bungalow	L33 B42 Dagohoy St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City	726,700.00
26.	378 sq.m. TCT No. 57300 w/ 4BR and 2T&B deteriorated bungalow	L7 B27-A No. 412 Mayflower St., Marisol Subd., Angeles City	928,200.00
27.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 496871-R w/ 2BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3821-A-2-E-5-B-3-A-6-F #99 Camia St., Purok Gloria Subd. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	213,200.00
28.	120 sq.m. TCT No. 498752-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B abandoned/ deteriorated 1-storey bungalow	L8B3 St. James Street, Domingo Subd., San Fernando, Pampanga	284,000.00
29.	160 sq.m. TCT No. 498753-R w/ 2BR and 2T&B fairly maintained bungalow	L26-A B21 Kalayaan Village San Fernando, Pampanga	516,800.00
30.	153 sq.m. TCT No. 501983-R w/ 2BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3826-J-6 Nos. 167/169 Jasmin St., Purok Gloria II Subd., Sindalan San Fernando, Pampanga	243,100.00
31.	270 sq.m. TCT No. 505162-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B deteriorating 1-storey residential	L40 B3 Casmor Subd., Ph. I Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	424,600.00
32.	180 sq.m. TCT No. 496872-R w/ 2BR and 2T&B poorly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3826-C-4 Ilang-ilang St., Purok Gloria Subd., Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	278,700.00
33.	160 sq.m. TCT No. 493588-R w/ 4BR and 2T&B fairly maintained 1-storey duplex	L3826-I-3 Nos. 123/125 Dama De Noche St., Purok Gloria Subd., Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga	315,100,00
34.	189 sq.m. TCT No 505160-R w/ 2BR and 1T&B fairly maintained 1-storey residential unit	L4-C B5 Casmor Subd., Ph. I Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga	372,100.00
		TOTAL	P14,309,200.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are available at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Quezon City. Please contact Mr. Tomas M. Ramirez at Telephone No. 920-64-01 local 5122 to 5128.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Real Estate Department, 5th Floor, SSS Building, Quezon City, from 8:00 A.M. to 1:59 P.M. on 27 September 2002. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bidder's deposit equivalent to at least 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/ U.S. dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable in cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly upon receipt of notice of approval.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

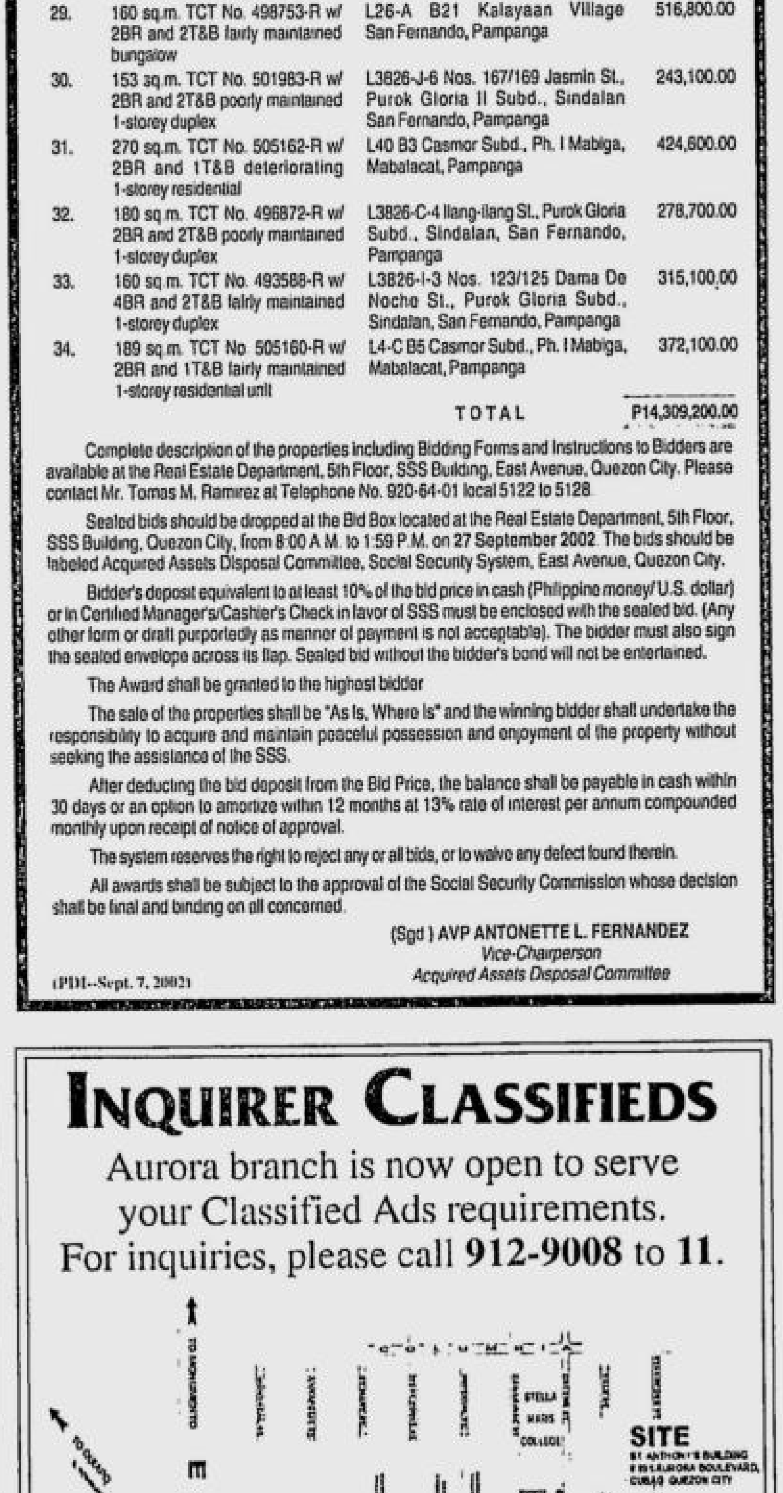
All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) AVP **ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Vice-Chairperson
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI--Sept. 7, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



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We Lovingly Remember

The **2nd Death Anniversary** of our Beloved

EMILIA S. BLAS

who joined her Creator on September 7, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered today, September 7, 2002
at the following churches:

Immaculate Concepcion Parish, *Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
Mary Help of Christian Parish, *Maypajo, Caloocan City*	6:00 AM
Sacred Heart Parish, *Tugatog, Malabon, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
San Bartolome Parish Church, *Rizal Avenue Extension, Malabon, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, *Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Grace Church, *M.H. del Pilar Street, Caloocan City*	6:45 AM
Our Lady of Candelaria Church, *Silang, Cavite*	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, *M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	7:00 AM
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, *Intramuros, Manila*	7:00 AM
Santisimo Rosario Parish, *P. Noval, Manila*	7:00 AM
St. John the Baptist Church, *Quiapo, Manila*	7:00 AM
Santuario de San Jose Parish, *Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:15 AM
Blessed Sacrament Church, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 AM

Her family requests the pious readers, employees and friends to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

> *"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
> **John 11:25-26**

MARIO CUEJILO DE LA FUENTE

of Cainta, Rizal

Beloved husband of **Leticia M. de la Fuente** and brother of **Narcisa, Priscilla** (†) and **Benjamin**, peacefully joined the creator on September 03, 2002 at the age of 69.

His bereaved children **Francis** and **Monette**, **Dong** and **Marcia**, **Sun** and **Irene**, and grandchildren **Franz Jonathan** and **Sarah Patricia**, **Patrick David** and **Paula Francesca** and dear relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their home at 0845 Burlington Street, Area 6 Brookside Hills Subdivision, Cainta Rizal.

SOLEDAD LIMSON JUCO
"Nene"

JUNE 08, 1930 - SEPTEMBER 05, 2002

Loving wife of Carlos T. Juco (†)

Her children **Pingco** and **Jhoanne**, **Baby** and **Jovy**, **Suzzette** and **Pocholo**, **Carlito** and **Gay**, **Dindo** and **Jaydee**; grandchildren **Carlo**, **Camille**, **Janella**, **Joshua**, **Justine**, **Katrina**, **Karen**, **Miguel**, **Anne**, **Timmy**, **Miko** and **Kristian**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Remains lie in state at the Sto. Cristo Chapel, Guagua, Pampanga.

Interment will be on September 10, 2002 (Tuesday) after the 2:00 P.M. Mass, at the Guagua Eternal Gift & Memorial Park.

The UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Foundation, Inc.

condoles with the family of

Ex-Mayor and Brod
Jesus "Jess" Pido, Sr.

(Grand Princep. UP Beta Sigma Fraternity, Los Baños Chapter, 1959-60)

Died July 28, 2002 at the age of 63.

The bereaved family: wife **Jessica**; and children **Jesus Jr.** and wife **Quillona Quimsing**, **Jessette**, and **Richard Acebedo**, **Jennifer**, **Juan Antonio**, **Jacqueline** and **JB**; and grandchildren **Liam Seth**, **Jabesh**, **Jessa**, **Keenan Moses**, and **Annika Carolina** requests brods, friends and relatives to pray for the eternal repose of **Jess'** soul.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.. 712-2782
102 years

PILAR REYES GONZALEZ

12 October 1933 - 05 September 2002

(Mrs. Augusto Beda A. Gonzalez)

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 68
on 05 September 2002, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.,
at the St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City.

She is survived by her children **Eugenio Ramon, Augusto Marcelino III, Adolfo Martin**, and **Rosario Clemencia**; daughters-in-law **Maria Isabel Sanvictores Gonzalez** and **Shim Keun Huh Gonzalez**; son-in-law **Danny Padilla Lizares**; grandchildren **Eugenio S. Gonzalez Jr., Giannina S. Gonzalez**, and **Pilar H. Gonzalez**; sisters **Felicisima Reyes, Generosa Reyes Shaw, Martha Reyes Horrigan**, and **Esperanza Reyes Castelo**; brothers **Emilio Reyes Jr.** and **Eufracio Reyes**; Reyes sisters and brothers-in-law **Ophelia Santiago Reyes, Alice Maceren Reyes**, and **Jack D. Horrigan**; Gonzalez sisters and brothers-in-law **Leonie Gala Gonzalez, Natividad Gonzalez Palanca**, and **Macario D. Arnedo Gonzalez (Bro. Andrew Benjamin Gonzalez, F.S.C.)**.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state from September 06-09, 2002 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 10 September 2002, Tuesday, at the Gonzalez mausoleum at the Apalit Catholic Cemetery, following the 8:00 a.m. Memorial Mass at the St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church, Apalit, Pampanga.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Pilar R. Gonzalez Foundation, which will continue her lifelong apostolate of constant assistance to the less fortunate.

In Loving Memory

of our Beloved Mother

JUANITA P. AGUIRRE

the wife of the late **Tomas Aguirre**
of Santa Cruz, Marinduque

Peacefully passed away in the loving embrace of our Lord
on September 5, 2002 at the age of 89.

She is survived by children:

Veronica, Angel (†), **Alexander** (former Secretary),
Milagros, Wilfredo, Josefina and **Ma. Lourdes** (†)

Daughters-in-law **Chit, Amparo**, and **Mely**;
Sons-in-law **Virgilio** and **Rudy**; and
Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels,
Dr. A. Santos Avenue (former Sucat Road), Parañaque City.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CARLOS "Pocholo" ESTRELLA ANGELES

Passed away on August 27, 2002 in U.S.A.
at the age of 56.

His wife Lory; children, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Church, Sacred Heart Street (Dao) corner Kamagong Street, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 8, 2002 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Manila South Cemetery, Makati.

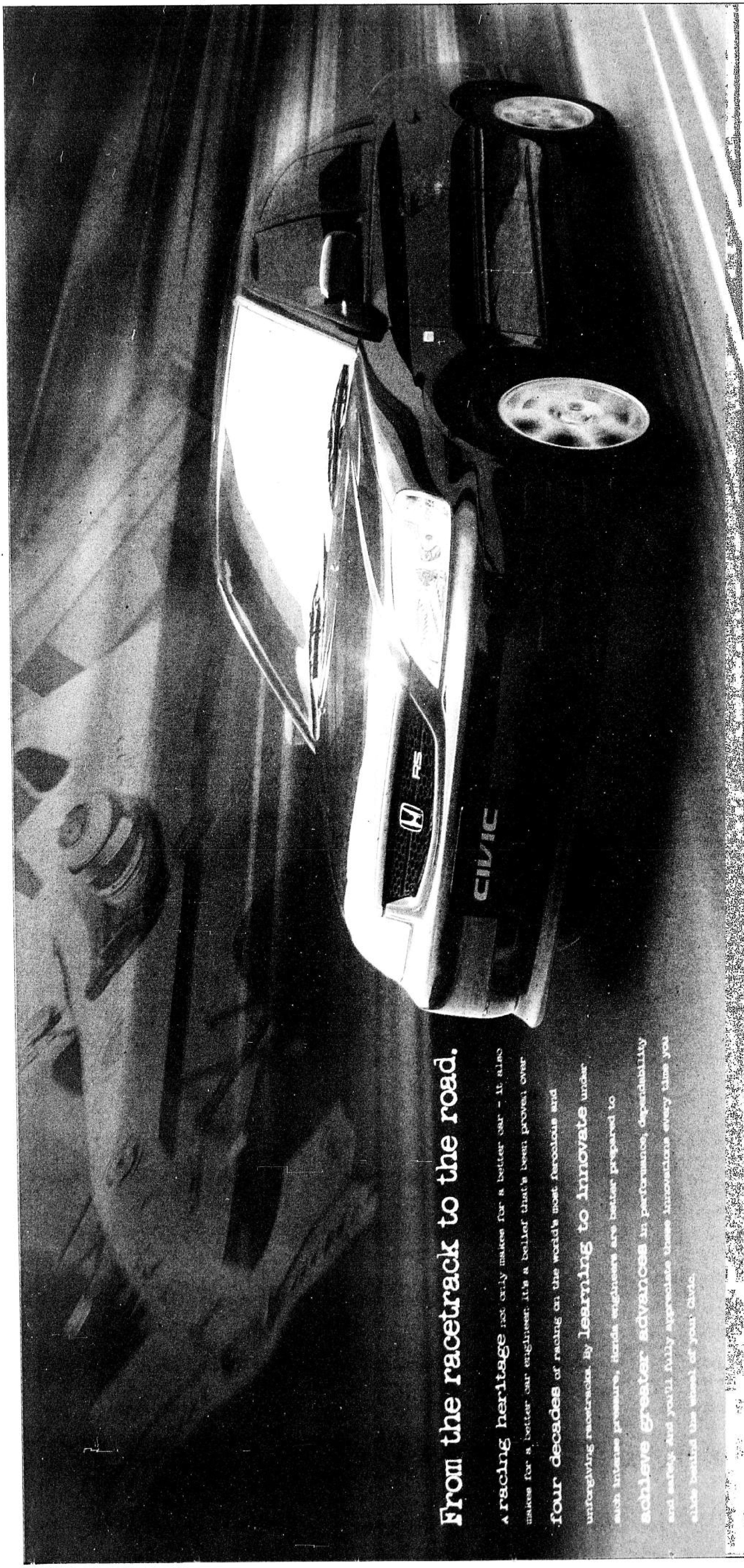
LORY ALIANZA TANSINGCO

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on September 5, 2002

Her husband **Capt. Antonio** PN (Ret); children **Vivien & Ricky Ongkiko**, **Toto** and **Carol**, **Ben**; mother **Vivencia**; brothers and sisters **Ben** and **Fely**, **Melinda Rosero**, **Terry & Pepo Nuñez**; grandchildren **Mara**, **Juro** and **Toma Ongkiko**, **Thea**, **Enzo** and **Miko** request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Colegio San Agustin Chapel, Palm Avenue, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at the Colegio San Agustin Chapel. Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.



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Planned SM mall in Clark opposed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN and traders operating at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga are opposing Clark Development Corp.'s plan to allow the construction of an SM shopping mall at the Salakot entrance claiming it would infringed on the area's zoning laws.

The Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA) led by its chair Carmen MacTavish signed a resolution protesting the CDC management's endorsement of SM's plan to put up a mall near the main entrance of the Clark ecozone, or outside the designated commercial zone.

The CILA warned that the construction of the SM mall outside the commercial zone would jeopardize CDC's master plan because it would open the door for other investors to set up retail shops anywhere in the ecozone.

Also, existing retailers in the ecozone feared that the SM mall would draw away shoppers from the designated commercial zone that would further aggravate their distressed financial conditions.

The CILA said it would also damage the morale of locators that have dutifully observed the zoning restrictions listed under Clark ecozone's master plan to protect the long-term interest of the project and its locators.

The Clark locators said they fully supported entry of SM into the ecozone (considering the retail giant's drawing power) only if this was located within the designated commercial zone.

The CILA echoed the warnings of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and local government officials that an SM Mall near the Salakot entrance would disrupt the flow of traffic in and out of the ecozone as well as worsen the daily gridlock in one of Central Luzon's major artery—MacArthur Highway.

The CDC board last week agreed to put on hold for up to two months its decision on the proposed SM project to give directors more time to review the project's implications on the short-term and long-term prospects of Clark ecozone and the Central Luzon economic corridor. The project has been endorsed by CDC chair Rizalino Navarro and president Emmanuel Angeles.

Editor **Marge Enriquez**
Copy Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

élan [é la'] flair, distinction, class

Art Director **Howard Borja**

Ode on the intimations of Identity

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

EYES spy Jean junkies. Indigo girls, blue babies—few remain inoculated against the denim epidemic.

A uniform is reborn. When it first descended on fashion plates' consciousness, women, as a statement of equality, wore worker's pants. These became symbols of cross-gender utilitarianism. Today, the female of the species wears it to celebrate the opposite: sexy chic, that cut above the rest, the unbearable tightness of being.

Denim-do

There is constant re-tailoring to the specifics of our body geography. "Designer denim" is no longer an oxymoron. Brooke Shields, when she cooed, "Nothing comes between me and my Calvins," was not altogether truthful. Around $150 dollars is the usual distance between anyone and a pair of CKs. The price tags are almost enough to curb the craving.

Almost.

Bazaar reports that Michael Kors recently produced an edition of 650 hand-stitched pieces. This makes them about as rare as Loch Ness Monster sightings.

Asked where I get my jeans, I often reply, "From my parents."

Which is true, as we all begin with things that we inherit: our physiology. We are all defined by our genetics, and only later discover the freedom brought about by colored contact lenses. But the cycle of sameness starts early.

We begin by mimicking words and intonations. As children, we adopt mannerisms from our parents, guardians, or cartoon characters. Always, when foreigners remark on Filipinos' American accent or general fluency in English, I say, "Can't be helped, we grew up on Sesame Street."

More idiosyncracies

Our formative years are spent in a uniform, complete with the obligatory lunch box. Children learn to fall in a single file and follow the leader. Years are spent in repetitious reading and writing. Chanting and mimicry help reinforce certain values. When you are young, this is called grade school. When you are older, this is called a cult.

In the 80s, there was a running joke about *colegialas* and their cultivated speech patterns. Students of rival high schools and colleges attribute specific mannerisms to themselves. Collegiate basketball would not be half as exciting without this age-old competition. We use our regional roots and/or educational background to characterize part of what we are. There are provincial idiosyncrasies that we imbibe and use as banners—when they connote positive traits. (Hence, the popularity of *Kapampangan* restaurants and not *tapas* from Tuguegarao.)

These foundations are laid by environmental engineering, fabricated to conform to each family's moral code. We are taught to listen before creating our own music. As we grow, we are splintered by experience. With the responsibility of choice comes the inadvertent chiseling out of our own form.

And so personalization, as of late, has become a marketing catch phrase. We each find our own drummers, select our own ring tones.

> We each find our own drummers, select our own ring tones

Ringing tones

Speaking of cell phones: They are changing, mutating the way we communicate, abbreviating the way we speak. I predict that, by the next generation, cell phones, too, will become hereditary. There are but a few who choose not to own this little wonder. As one such friend explains:" I subscribe to stagnation."

The cacophony of bizarre ring tones is enough to drive an insane person sane. But in truth, should there exist only a singular ring for all the cell phones that buzz in the metropolis, each time one goes off, the city would pause. We all would reach for our units, executing a collective bow, a homage to the gods of the telecom industry.

Another example is the I-Mac. You get to choose the flavor of your computer. This appeals to the kid in us all: made transparent to encourage us to trust the rocket science underneath it. Who would select a bulky, serious box, (with symbolic reference to gray matter) when you can choose Grape? If we are a herd branded by our consumerism, we may as well personalize our mark.

Anton San Diego, who has a weekly column on trend, notes that we are like sponges to the new. Perhaps, he muses, it is because culturally, we have been subjected to various degrees of colonization. We adopt easily, as this openness is part of our cultural identity. And though we are in tune with fashion, we don't place grave importance on the shifting of silhouettes, because we have more important things to deal with on a daily basis. An interesting observation.

Brave endeavor

Franklin Thomas noted: "One day, our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender, instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings."

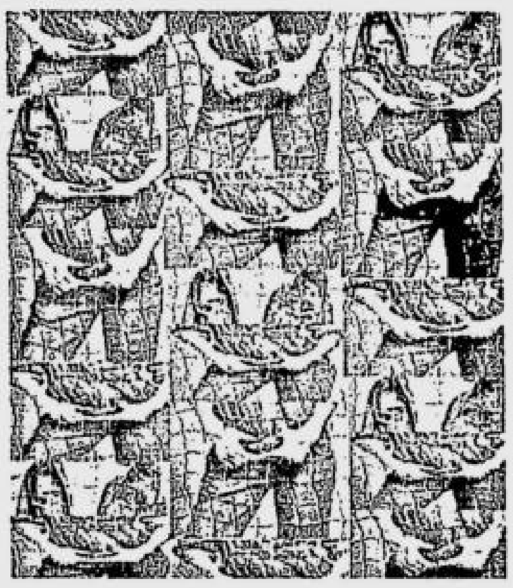
Exploring this personal identity is a brave endeavor. To find and trust one's own instinct sometimes places him at odds with the collective whole. Elemental in us is a deep sense of family. But relying solely in its cradle has its down side.

Helen Keller once said, "A man can't make a place for himself in the sun, if he keeps taking refuge in the family tree." Magellan explained that the Church declared the earth flat, but that he had seen its shadow on the moon. And in words that would guarantee ex communication and deportation, he said: " I have more confidence in the shadow."

While young, we are taught to follow rules. Then we break out in search of our independent jazz. We speak the same language. But in it, we find our own poetry, so that we are better understood.

"Individuality is not determined by nationality. It is who a person really is and what he stands for. It is a reflection of his beliefs, values, preferences," Anton Baretto explains.

In his Novel, "Identity," Milan Kundera presents this scene:



As a man watches his beloved from a distance, he is awash in sentiment. But as the object of his affection walks closer to him, he takes mental steps backward, into the spiraling staircase of memory. Standing still now, his mind is swept up in recollections of fondness. As she walks towards him, he suddenly realizes that it is someone else, a stranger. The ease with which he is able to displace his emotion on someone else disturbs him.

Kundera asks, "Does that mean that the difference between her and other women is minute? How is it possible that he can not distinguish the form of the being he loves most, the being he considers to be beyond compare?"

Perhaps, in the haze of distance, deep in our denims, we are all the same.

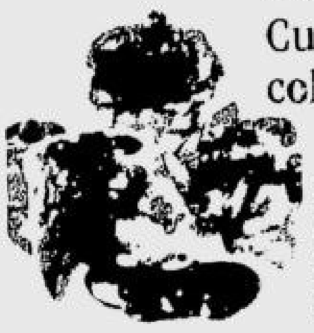
(E-mail at baileys_crayon@yahoo.com)

What's inside

Return to optimism C2

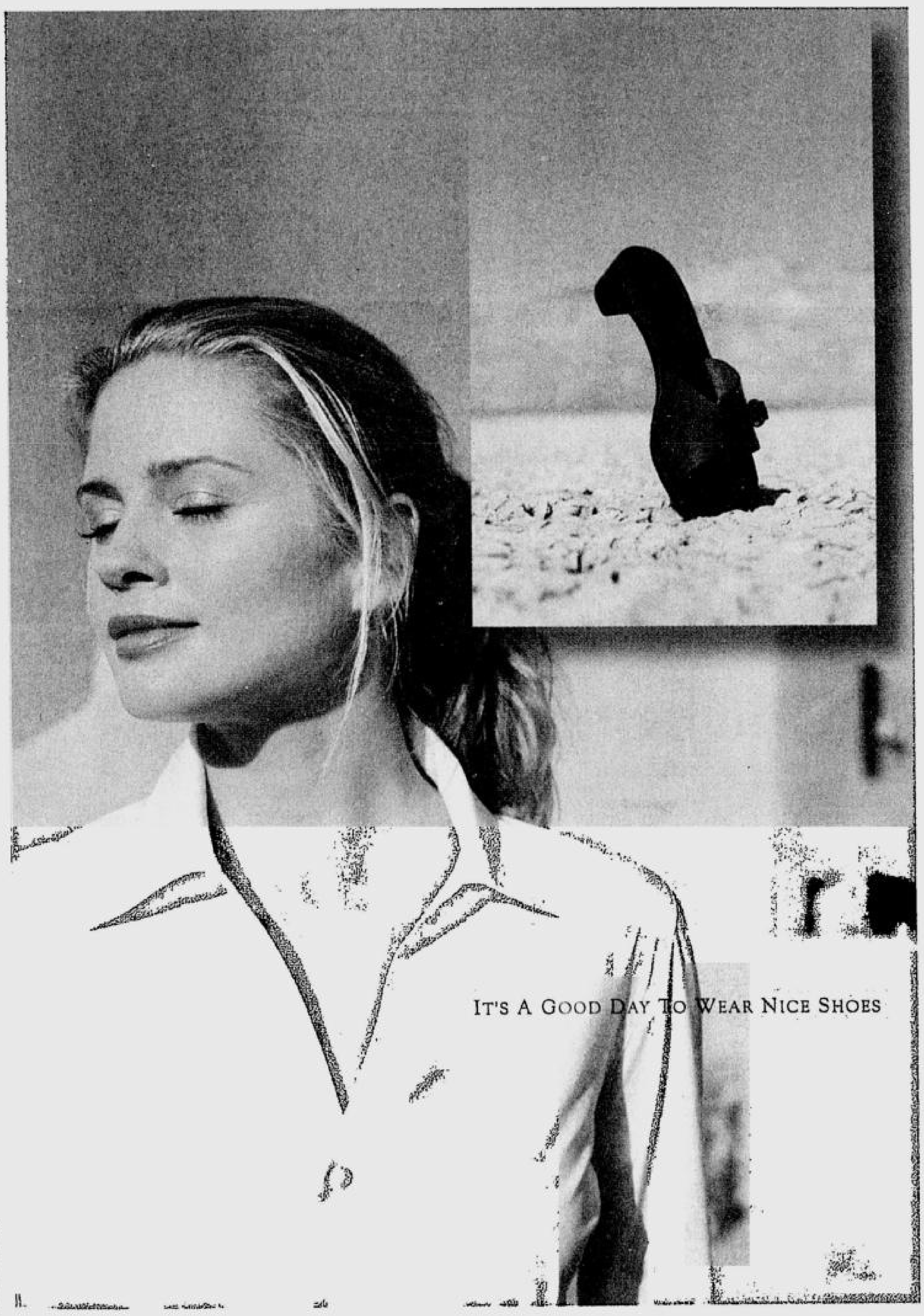
SENATOR Serge Osmeña and Gina Lopez at a fundraising event for Bantay Bata

2 b Human, 2 b unique C4



Culinary cohabitation D1

ROASTED duck liver with *adobo rillette* of duck breast on French-toasted *pan de sal*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Return to optimism

By Teddy Montelibano
Contributor

LIVING in the Philippines—specifically in Metro Manila—does something even to the most optimistic Filipinos. There is much basis for feeling dark about this country—public leaders incapable of rising above their petty selves, gnawing poverty, and moral decay, among others.

It is, therefore, like a ray of sunlight or a breath of fresh wind when one meets a few hardy souls who refuse to be bogged down by things negative.

More donations

There must be many more out there who are just as indefatigable in working to make a difference in the quality of life of Filipinos as Regina Paz L. Lopez, but her grace, sincerity, energy and humility—qualities which don't come easily to those born to immense wealth and privilege—make her rare.

When the 48-year-old managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. speaks of poverty, you believe her because, at the young age of 18, she abandoned a life of absolute luxury and comfort, to join the Indian-based Ananda Marga movement and live among the poorest of the poor in India and Africa. She did not do merely a year of exposure; she spent almost two decades in some of the most destitute places on the planet.

Nothing seems to faze her, not even the country's state of palpable deterioration and economic degradation in the hands of self-absorbed public leaders.

Over simple vegetarian fare (including super-delicious licorice herbal tea and black chocolate for dessert) which she served for lunch at her house in Pasig, we asked Gina how she thought ABS-CBN Foundation's many projects and activities would fare in these dark unstable times.

She replied by referring to conditions during the last administration. "It's amazing," she said. "When the country's economy was really going down, donations to Bantay Bata (one of the foundation's major projects) went up. My thinking is that, even during times of crisis, people will still help—as long as we do our work well, and run our operations as transparently, sincerely and cost-effectively as we can. I actually never worry."

Bantay Bata was launched in 1997 and among its services are a 24-hour hotline service for people to call and report cases of child abuse; a foster care program, Children's Home and a Children's Village under construction in Bulacan.

Another major activity is the environmental program, Bantay Kalikasan whose main project is the Save the La Mesa Watershed. In 1998, close to half of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa forest was found virtually denuded as a result of slash-and-burn farming. La Mesa forest straddles Caloocan, Rizal and Quezon City, and is the site of the filtration plant and reservoir which supplies water to Metro Manila's millions of inhabitants.

La Mesa project

Gina and her siblings were among the first to personally invest in project when it was launched. "People like to have hectares of land in their name—that's a scheme we found to be very attractive in supporting our La Mesa rehabilitation project," she related. "For example, my (six) brothers and sisters and I have 70 hectares under my dad's (the late Eugenio Lopez Jr.) name in La Mesa. You adopt a hectare and we plant the trees in your name in La Mesa. In effect, when you give, you get something back in return."

Two of the most important assets Gina is lucky to have in furthering the foundation's work are her battery of friends (most of whom are in the well-heeled set but who gladly volunteer time, energies and resources), and family-owned ABS-CBN, the country's biggest media conglomerate.

"I can offer media mileage to every project's sponsors and donors," Gina pointed out.

She hailed her friend Elvira Liboro Yulo, wife of Canlubang Sugar Estate heir, Amos Yulo, as a "terrific" example. "She's great!"Gina said. "She had never worked all her married life, and then she came to work with Bantay Bata. It was one of the best things that ever happened to her! Also to us—she tripled our income!"

Gina's friends

It was Elvira, Gina said, who thought up a system that dramatically increased contributions to Bantay Bata: coin banks which are placed all over Metro Manila. The coin banks made P3 million for the project last year, Gina said. "And this year, we've been hitting P500,000 every month. We're going to get P6 million by the end of the year from the coin banks alone!"

Other friends of hers who are now involved in the foundation are: Evelyn Lim Forbes, who is on top of Bantay Usok; Ana de Sequera Ugarte, who oversees Bantay Basura; Doris Magsaysay Ho and Basil Ong who are both consultants in Bayan Foundation (micro-financing and community development); and Otta Uy-Montinola, whose assistance cuts across various projects and activities.

One special "friend" is her elder brother Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, ABS-CBN chair. To see how the siblings work together is to have an idea of how close they are. The Diana Krall two-night concert last July is an example. It was a Gabby Lopez-arranged gig. A fan since he saw Krall's previous Philippine performance at the Mandarin a year or so ago, the media mogul arranged for the jazz singer to perform two nights in Manila—at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on the first night for profit, and at a dinner-show in EDSA Shangri-la on the second night for charity—the proceeds would go to the La Mesa Watershed project.

The dinner-show was packed wall-to-wall. Manila's top families and the country's biggest companies were amply represented. Gina went onstage before the show to "apologize" for having put members of the audience in a spot—making them fork out from P6,000 to P9,000 for an invitation ticket, and from P60,000 to P90,000 for a table.

Shortly after the event she said she no longer wanted to get into anything that involved selling expensive tickets. However, she said, she wouldn't mind doing "fun" shows. "Maybe we can bring in Stevie Wonder or Sergio Mendes and charge from P500 to P1,500."

Obviously, this is someone who enjoys what she's doing. "Oh yeah," she said, with a lilt to her voice and a smile on her face. "I love my work; I love making a difference."

Three wise ones

Three other people who bring life and light to those who are in the shadows are Angeles King, Rachel Delgado Garcia and Eric Pe Benito. They are members of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Cerebral Palsy, Inc. (PCPI).

Angeles King was recruited by her family doctor and neighbor in Forbes Park into the PCPI when its name was still Elks Cerebral Palsy, Inc., and the board of trustees was still basically composed of Americans from the Elks Lodge organization.

She "dragged" an old friend, Eric Pe Benito, into the board. Pe Benito had been doing charity work on his own. For the past four years, he has spent Christmas in a home for the aged in Marikina with a group of friends, distributing goods gathered from other friends.

Currently, he, King and Garcia serve as PCPI trustees. Garcia is an old hand at volunteer work. Among many other friends, Rachel said, "Doris (Magsaysay Ho) and I have done it all—trees, rivers (Save the Pasig), conservation, the environment, arts and culture. And people give (help). It is really about developing a network and using that network for a good cause. When your objectives are clear and people see that you are doing the work from your heart, donations just flow in."

There are various ways of funding a project, Rachel added. "We might pick a show and sponsor a performance, or mount fashion show for a designer." She related that Asia Society, headed locally by Doris Ho, sponsored one night of the musical "Alikabok," and the proceeds went to the society's projects.

Fundraising at home

The three are still flushed with the success of their first-ever mounted event for the PCPI. In less than a month, they were able to put together a concert last Aug. 16 at the King's spacious Forbes Park residence where the artists performed for free—tenor Nolyn Cabahug, soprano Rachele Gerodias, and flutist Antonio Maigue performing with the Manila Philarmonic Orchestra under the baton of maestro Rodel Colmenar. Everything else—tables and chairs, linen, flatware and food from Via Mare, El Cirkulo, Casa Armas, Wasabi, Starbucks, flower décor from Mabolo—were likewise donated. Even the host/emcee, violinist John Lesaca, also a PCPI trustee, played for free.

But what brought tears to everyone's eyes were the singing performance rendered before those who came to the event by Jaime, Raquel Garcia's son. The 26-year-old wheelchair-bound son, and his two similarly disabled friends—all victims of cerebral palsy.

"There was not a dry eye in the hall," Raquel said. "Joe Mari Chan was so moved, he came forward and told them he would like them to perform with him in concerts outside Metro Manila. He also made a commitment to sponsor several PCPI wards."

That event was held specifically to solicit sponsors for the disabled children housed at the PCPI center. Garcia, King and Pe Benito were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support. Not only were they able to mount a smashing party; they were also able to get everyone they called—except for a few—to pledge generous amounts. Among these were Chan and Negros Congressman Jules Ledesma, who sponsored over a dozen children for a whole year.

"That's not much actually," said King. "It's just P1,000 per month per child, or P12,000 a year for a child."

The trio attributed their success to personalized calls. "Even before you write to someone, pick up the phone and call that person. Only then should you send the invitation," said Garcia.

Not everyone she called for the concert showed up, Garcia said, "but no one refused us a donation." This has restored her faith in people's innate generosity, " she said. "Many people are just waiting for you to call."

Making things happen

On another occasion, we were impressed by the sincerity and humility of a member of one of the country's wealthiest families. Describing his role as chairman of the successful launch of the Children's Hour (in which a donor gives an hour's worth of his salary to a fund for children), Jaime Zobel de Ayala said, "It's really just about convening (the event). In the end, it's been a lot of fun, and there's a group of people who enjoyed spending time together and letting things happen."

Making things happen, or making a difference, as Regina Lopez stressed, could be one and the same thing. And these are people who hardly need to work, or lift a finger for the rest of their lives. The fact that they do—and do so for others—makes one a lot less cynical about this country, and feel good about being a Filipino.

> There are people among us who need never work, or even lift a finger. But they do—and they do it to help others

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

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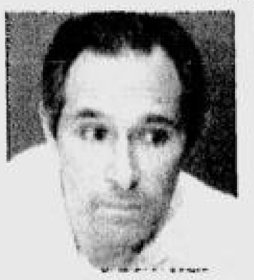
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children's hour
Every hour is time we
JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Gina Lopez during the Children's Hour presscon

MENCHU Lopez, Shahid Zahid, Raquel Garcia, Tina Quiros and Willy Villareal

NOLYN Cabahug, Rachelle Gerodias, Antonio Maigue, Raquel Garcia and Eric Pe Benito at the PCPI fundraiser

ARCHIE and Lingling King

TITO and Marit Yuchengco at the Diana Krall concert

Soaring high, higher

By Becky Garcia
Contributor

"Everything you've always known to be true but were too afraid to say because of the high-tech temper of the times, is reaffirmed and celebrated in this book: The healing blessings of forgiving seventy times seven, the endlessly rewarding joys of tithing, the loving, caring and sharing that makes every day Christmas, the belief in God that is in you, etc. The best part is that the book shows you how to do it. How? The spirit will move you as it did me toward the appropriate pages, for your delectation and application. So, soar higher against the winds of life, to where the miracle is."

Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Editor-in-Chief
Philippine Daily Inquirer

THIS is one of numerous praises bestowed on a new book by the country's foremost New Thought exponent, man for all seasons, and my good friend, **George Sison.** "A Miracle Awaits You," was recently launched at his Stars of Giorgio Restaurant and Bar.

The book talks about how to reinvent ourselves in order to create miracles in our lives. With a foreword by Catherine Ponder, world-renowned author of prosperity and healing, the book can be likened to an oracle which guides readers on what to do, to overcome obstacles. As George would put it, "It is your best friend, your counselor, your shoulder to lean on, your hand to hold—because this is all within you—a part of your inner wisdom."

We were surprised with the blurb written by Father Carlos Ronquillo of the Redemptorist Formation: "Mr. George Sison is a genius in practically translating the religious symbol of believing into a secular language. His insights approximate St. Mark's deep understanding of Jesus' idea of believing."

We did not expect such positive response, considering that many of George's ideas of God and religion are unconventional, and some people even find them quite radical.

As in all his gatherings, Manila's Who Who, braved the stormy weather and flocked to George's book launch. Among the 200 select guests were Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**, Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Santan Ramirez**, Embassy of Laos' third secretary **Boumpeng Kenchane**, columnist **Bambi Harper**, L'Obelisk's **Hermin Aslanian**, **Dr. Peter Walker**, who is arranging to bring American retirees to the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines chair **Bal Endriga** with ever-elegant wife **Tessie**, hairstylist par-excellence **Jesi Mendez** with wife **Gina**, society photographer **Rupert Jacinto** with lovely wife **Tina**, restaurateur **Glenda Barreto**, Inner Mind's **Jaime Licauco** with wife **Yoly**, Inner Peace's head and founder, **Regina Dee** with son **Derek** and two pretty granddaughters, lyric poetess **Virgie Moreno**, writer **Raul Ingles**, actor/writer **Behn Cervantes**, society grand dame **Paz Yuchengco**, painter **Phyllis Zaballero**, effervescent couple **Ronald** and **Angie Roy** with **Dulce Cepeda**, British journalist **Glen Gale**, beauty queen **Aurora Pijuan**, ballroom enthusiasts **Sonny Tanchangco** and **John Gaddi**, former beauty queen (still looking wonderful!) **Myrna Borromeo**, my long-time friend banker **Ramon Orosa**, feng shui expert **Merlina Merton**, the vibrant **Thelma Gana**, insurance man **Robert Lim**, former president of the Metropolitan Museum **Rita Ledesma**, businessman **Donnie Montelibano** with wife **Linda**, and **Renato Malay**, who has just launched his own book on how to become a successful celebrity.

Guests of honor who contributed blurbs for George's book, were PDI editor-in-chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**, **Fr. Ronquillo**, ABS-CBN president **Freddie Garcia**, Brazilian Counselor **Carlos de Carvalho**, Makati Mayor **Jejomar Binay**, well-known cardiologist **Dr. Beaver Tamesis**, businessman and socialite **DJ Lopez**, AMA Educational System's senior director **Atty. Noel G. Ramiscal**, "Tell the People Now" TV host **Jullie Yap Daza**, and yours truly.

Fina "Ping" Valencia emceed the show and also sang "What Name Shall I Give You My Love;" whose lyrics, incidentally, is from George's first book of painting-poems published by Philippine Signature. George later set it to music, and it was recorded internationally by the third-generation Platters. The group Mixed Blessings, composed of four young Fil-Britons, also showcased their singing talents during the program.

"A Miracle Awaits You" is truly bound for glory. It is a book to be read by those who desire miracles in their lives. And we all do!

Those interested to grab hold of a copy can call TOPPPx, tel. 818-3147 or 816-7586 (look for Bernaa/Irvin). Or you can wait just a little while more, since the book will soon be on the shelves of National Bookstore.

DIs move up

Speaking of miracles, some dance instructors from the Philippines have been having their share. When I was in Singapore recently to attend the annual general assembly of the International Dancesport Federation (IDF), the International Olympic Committee recognized IDF, and of which the Dancesport Council of the Philippines (DSCP) is a member, I saw some of the former members of the council who have made it really big as dance instructors there.

Their income is bigger, and they are provided with all the amenities—board and lodging, airfare, and attendant perks. And they get to meet the crème de la crème of Singapore high society.

One such person is **Jojo Abuan** who is lucky enough to have met a client, a very kind-hearted lady, who has become his special friend. She was previously married to the son of Singapore's deputy prime minister. She is a top businesswoman and the president of the Raffles International Hotel, which has hotel properties all over the world. Jojo travels with her on her business trips. He has also entered into a partnership with a Singaporean to supply sounds and lights for different hotels. They provide entertainment, as well, to all Raffles Hotels worldwide. He took us to lunch at the Equinox on the 70th floor of the Raffles—The Plaza. What a small world!

Jojo plays golf with the VIPs of Singapore's business and government communities, and even got to play with ex-President **Fidel V. Ramos.** In Manila, he was sales executive in a real estate development company and, at night—as a hobby— he was a dance instructor. He was enrolled at my dance school, and I knew him to be a very aggressive person—a real salesman. I told a friend that, if Jojo were not a go-getter, he would not be where he is now. But what makes the success of Jojo relevant is that he helped other DIs from Manila. He asked them to come to Singapore and gave them jobs. Because of them, our local dance enthusiasts have lost their dancing partners for greener pastures. **Rupert Laurena**, once a dancesport competitor, is now the partner of an Indonesian society matron. **Flavian Samson, Jojo Cariño, Michael Cuneta, Gerry de Guzman**, are some of those who now commute between Manila and Singapore, and dance as partners of Singaporean and Indonesian high society matrons.

> George Sison's book, 'A Miracle Awaits You,' is glory-bound

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, George Sison and Dr. Beaver Tamesis

BRAZILIAN Counselor Carlos de Carvalho, Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Santana Ramirez and Dr. Peter Walker

MARK Blairlock, Jojo Abuan and Flavian Samson in Singapore

Drowning in my nostalgia

By Toti Dalmacion
Contributor

IN 1982, I was the new kid in school. I was 14, and had just gotten back from Los Angeles, where I spent a year hanging out in record shops, acquiring the latest releases by punk and New Wave groups that opened my eyes and ears, four years prior. It had been exciting back in '78, at 10 years of age, to discover groups like XTC, The Records, The Ruts, The Specials etc. And it was just as exciting in '82 as new music crept in, infiltrating the mainstream.

As always though, the new music met some resistance from the status quo. I remember going to a cousin's party and putting on Human League's "Dare," Depeche Mode's "Speak and Spell," Landscape's "From The Tea Rooms of Mars," and several tracks from Lene Lovich and Japan. My reward comprised of dagger looks from...just about everyone! Little did they know that, in a matter of months, quite a number of these bands with weird names like Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Culture Club and their ilk would take Manila by storm, and they would be converted.

> Seeing The Lotus Eaters, a big part of my past, right in front of me sent me into such elation, it was surreal

Retro fashion

Overnight, a transformation would take place. Suddenly, trenchcoats/leather jackets(!?!), funny haircuts (ala Phil Oakey, Robert Smith, A Flock Of Seagulls' Mike Score, just to cite a few), earrings and eye shadow on guys, Monkey Boots, baggy pants, black-dyed sneakers, creepers, wayfarers etc. were in vogue. Basically, anything that punk and New Wave bands wore in magazine pictorials and on MTV (available only on video rental tapes then) were copied constantly. Every school had its share of kids who took "the look" to heart.

Being a new student in a co-ed school, I attended my first dance ever at some point. The music was more '80s post disco, funk and R&B, which was not bad at all. Stuff by Odyssey, Earth Wind & Fire, Galaxy, Shalamar, Dazz Band filled the air, along with some early Italian disco (questionable, but obviously favorites here) and electro. The latter was referred to locally as "*pang*-strut." Obviously there was a division in terms of music and fashion sense. Some people were more into the conventional, although they were hip in some respect, thanks to breakdancing, locking and popping, funky dance steps and B-boy culture from the Bronx. Also picture dance crews, showdowns and competitions on Dance 10—remember that show?

New Wave boom

And yet, this was to be overtaken by the New Wave boom. Older mobile discos shifted and incorporated New Wave into their playlist. Younger, mobile groups sprouted. They were completely...New Wave. Some of these New Wavers or "*chongs,*" as affectionately, if jokingly, referred to by local hardcore punks or snobs, weren't satisfied with only what was "trendy" and on MTV. Every mobile group had to have signature New Wave cuts, given some inconsistencies like Den Harrow's "Taste of Love" or Marx and Spencer's "(People) Stay." Though they sounded good, they didn't quite cut it. Many, including this "*chong,*" wanted more.

The more obscure, the sweeter. That's what made it so amazing. There were bands back then who were recognized and appreciated only here—for instance, English bands little known or completely unheard of in England or in America. Considering how trendy we Filipinos can be, at that point we actually got...deeper. I'm not talking about bands who were one-hit wonders, like Seona Dancing or Industry. Obviously, some did make it in America, like The Smiths, The Psychedelic Furs, Tears For Fears etc. But here I refer more to bands like The Blue Nile, China Crisis, The Pale Fountains, Friends Again, Aztec Camera, Prefab Sprout, Orange Juice, Care, The Wild Swans, The Lotus Eaters etc. They were more than your average New Wave acts, like Haysi Fantayzee or Pseudo Echo. They actually had good songs. They were musically exciting, as they had charisma and style; plus the diverse influences manifested in their music were completely opposite the stereotypical New Wave ditty.

This excitement and thirst for great melodies and wordplay would continue all throughout my high school years, all the more when my family moved to Los Angeles in '86, giving me more exposure to newer bands. Discovering new music gave me such a thrill, I became more adventurous, but more discerning. It was of course, inevitable that I would be attracted to tho post-punk, post-New Wave stylings of indie pop and rock, being simply a progression of New Wave. I would also get into other styles such as house music and techno, as well as hip-hop, but the pleasure of being in a time that was the '80s, in high school, living in Manila would never come back. Or so I thought.

Redux

Fast forward to 2002. I find myself in this e-mail correspondence with Jem Kelly of The Lotus Eaters, seeing that they had reformed and had a new album out. For five months I negotiated for him and Peter Coyle to come and play in The Philippines, where they were part of a magical, music era. Jeremy was quite thrilled. And after the local brouhaha (the intrigues and lies of other supposed promoters) surrounding their Manila debut, they're finally here.

Understand that I've more or less become numb about band personalities—chased quite a number in LA, for autographs—as well as world-famous DJs and artists that, as a promoter, I had brought into the country. But seeing The Lotus Eaters, a big part of my past, right in front of me, sent me into such elation. It was surreal. Flashbacks of parties at Corinthian and Polo Club, with people dancing to "German Girl" and "The First Picture Of You" filled my brain, that "It Hurt(s)"...in a good way. I never imagined I would someday bring them to Manila!

I took them to dinner on their first night and they told me amazing stories of themselves and the other people in my record collection. Ian Broudie (Big In Japan, Care, The Lightning Seeds), Ian McNabb (Icicle Works), The Associates, Tom Hingley (Inspiral Carpets), Gene, Paul Weller. Some of these guys were my heroes! It was mind-boggling to hear about them being spoken of like they were my next-door neighbors.

Friday, 2:30 p.m. I had just watched them rehearse for their gig with Rivermaya, who'll be their back-up band. The hairs on my neck stood on end. The boys in the band could attest to this. Jem Kelly's guitar playing was in top form, and Peter's voice was as fresh as it sounded on their first album, "No Sense Of Sin." At one point they did "Sara," off their more current "Silent Space" release. It blew me away.

Feelings of being this wide-eyed kid in the '80s, overwhelmed me once more, sending the jaded critic off on a holiday. Music truly connected times, places, and people.

(E-mail at vinyljunkie@ vasia.com)

New wave in text messaging

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

GLOBE Handyphone has always been an innovator in the Philippine mobile phone market. Consider some of what Globe has pioneered:

In 1993, Globe launched GSM cellular technology; in 1998, Prepaid Plus. Earlier this year, it introduced the country's first international roaming for prepaid. Now, Globe presents the next wave of text messaging: Multi-Media Messaging, or MMS.

A completely new way of communicating, MMS allows you to send and receive text with full-color pictures, animation, even sound. And these multi-media messages can be exchanged both here and abroad—currently, to Australia and Singapore. That's audio and video clips, as well as polyphonic ring tones.

Think about it. Text messaging as a fun way of communicating started with basic emoticons. This paved the way for picture messages, icons, and an endless array of ring tones to choose from.

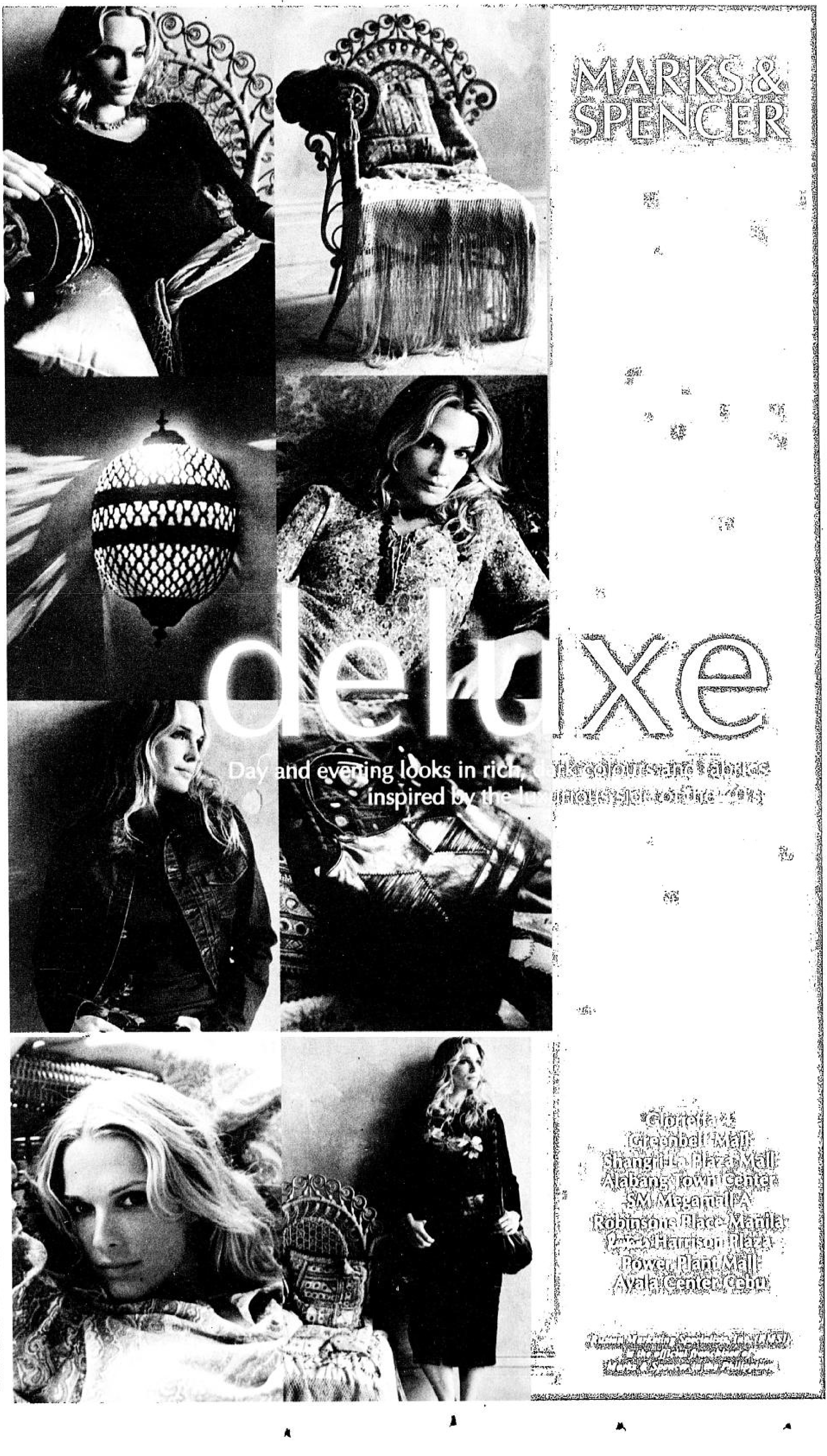
MMS takes this to yet another level. With an MMS-capable handset, such as the Ericsson T68i or the Nokia 7650, you can send photo messages, and/or attach a picture to text and sound. The built-in camera in the 7650 and the camera attachment for the T68i even makes it possible to take pictures from your phone.

So let's say you're in Singapore: you can take a photo and instantly send it to someone, with a personal message. If the person you're sending it to doesn't have an MMS capable phone, you can send it via e-mail. Globe can even alert the recipient through SMS and direct him/her to a URL where the MMS message may be viewed. Photos from the 7650 are amazingly clear.

Globe has also initially launched some great MMS applications. One is Globe Traffic-Cam. You can get an actual picture of the Edsa-Buendia, Ayala, and Ortigas flyover as well as Edsa-Guadalupe! Imagine yourself stuck in traffic on the way to meet someone. Just send a picture of the traffic situation and the need for a lengthy explanation is unnecessary. Globe also offers a menu of photo messages, digital postcards, and animated messages. The animated messages allow you to send and receive full-color pictures of your favorite Disney characters, with fun melodies attached to them. You can also send mini-cartoon greetings that have amusing characters of FunMail, like Garfield and South Park.

Either way, the Globe MyCam allows subscribers to access Globe's public photo album or create their own. At the same time subscribers may also set up their own web-cam to allow them to download real-time pictures of personal sites. These applications are obviously just the beginning. The possibilities are endless and the idea of "Mission Impossible" video communication is definitely not far behind.

The great news is, Globe is offering the MMS service free of charge until Sept. 30 after service provisioning and handset configuration. Service provisioning is also free; all you need to do is call the hotline (730-1000) or go to any Globe business center to avail of the service. If you don't have an MMS capable handset, Globe Handyphone is offering huge discounts of up to 50 per cent on the Ericsson T68i and the Nokia 7650 when you subscribe to a new G plan.



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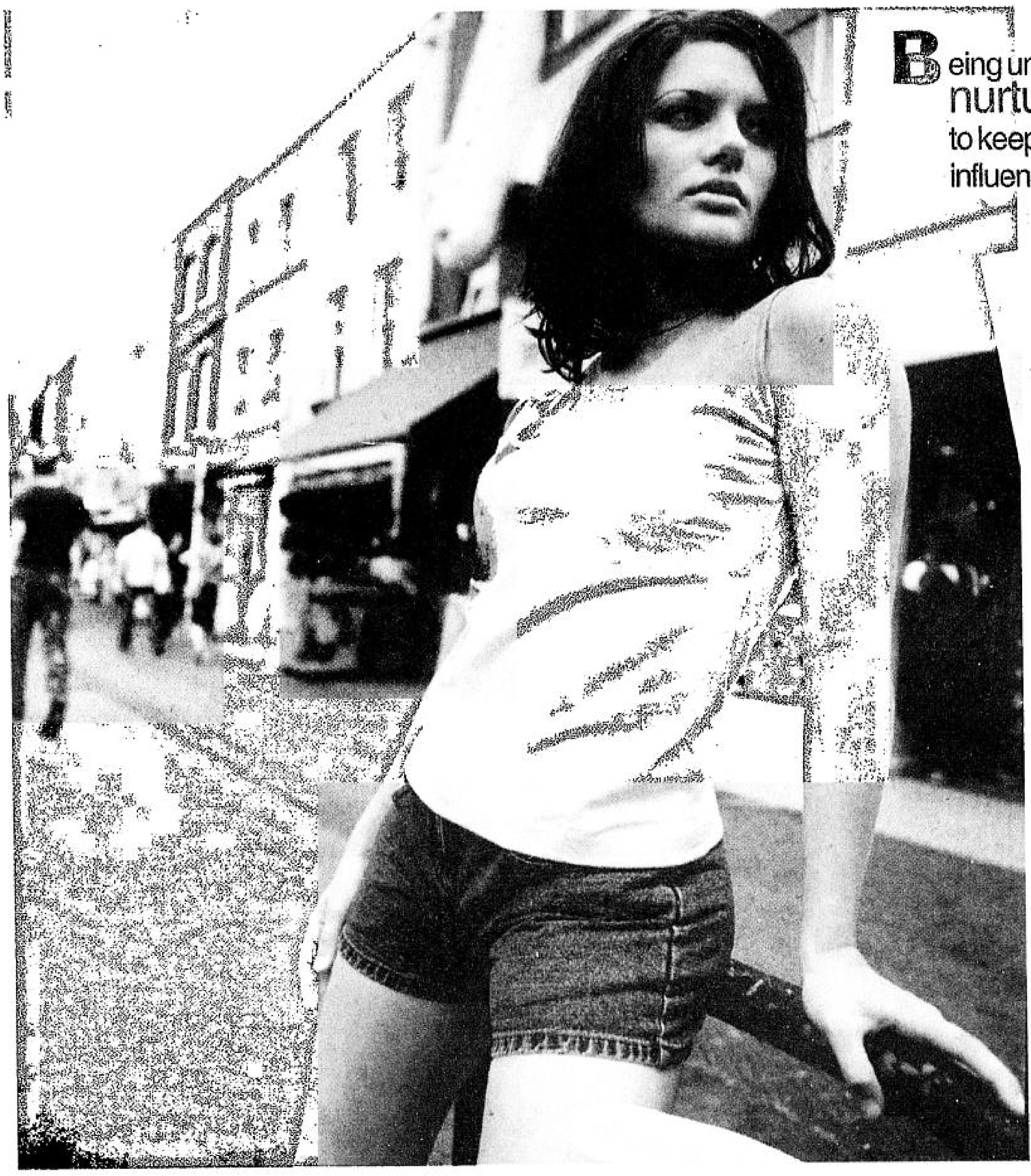
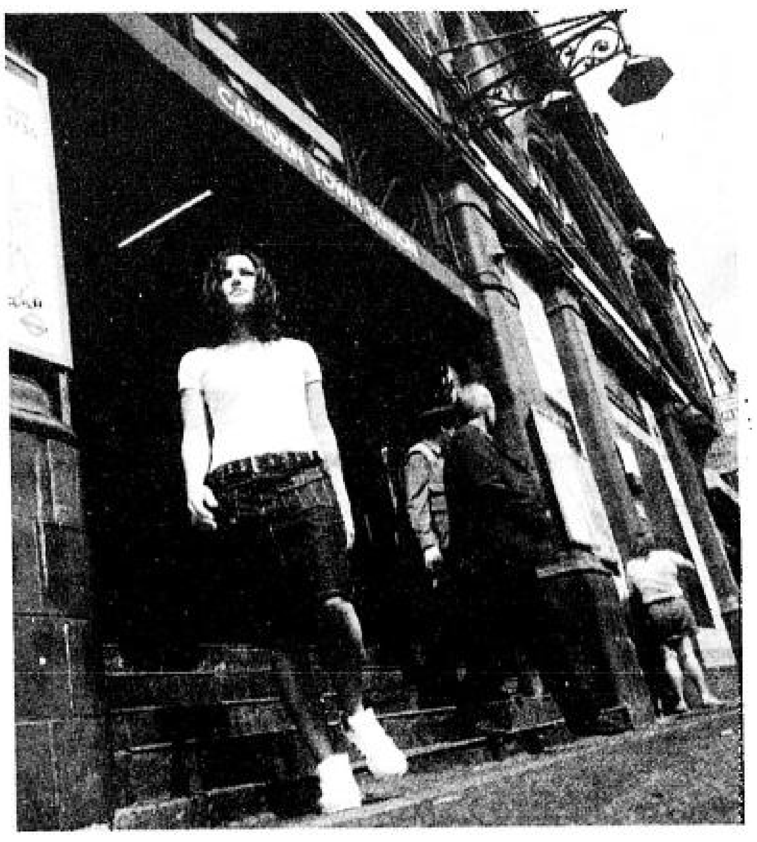


Being unique means connecting with and nurturing our inner core, and working to keep it from being spoiled by harmful influences.

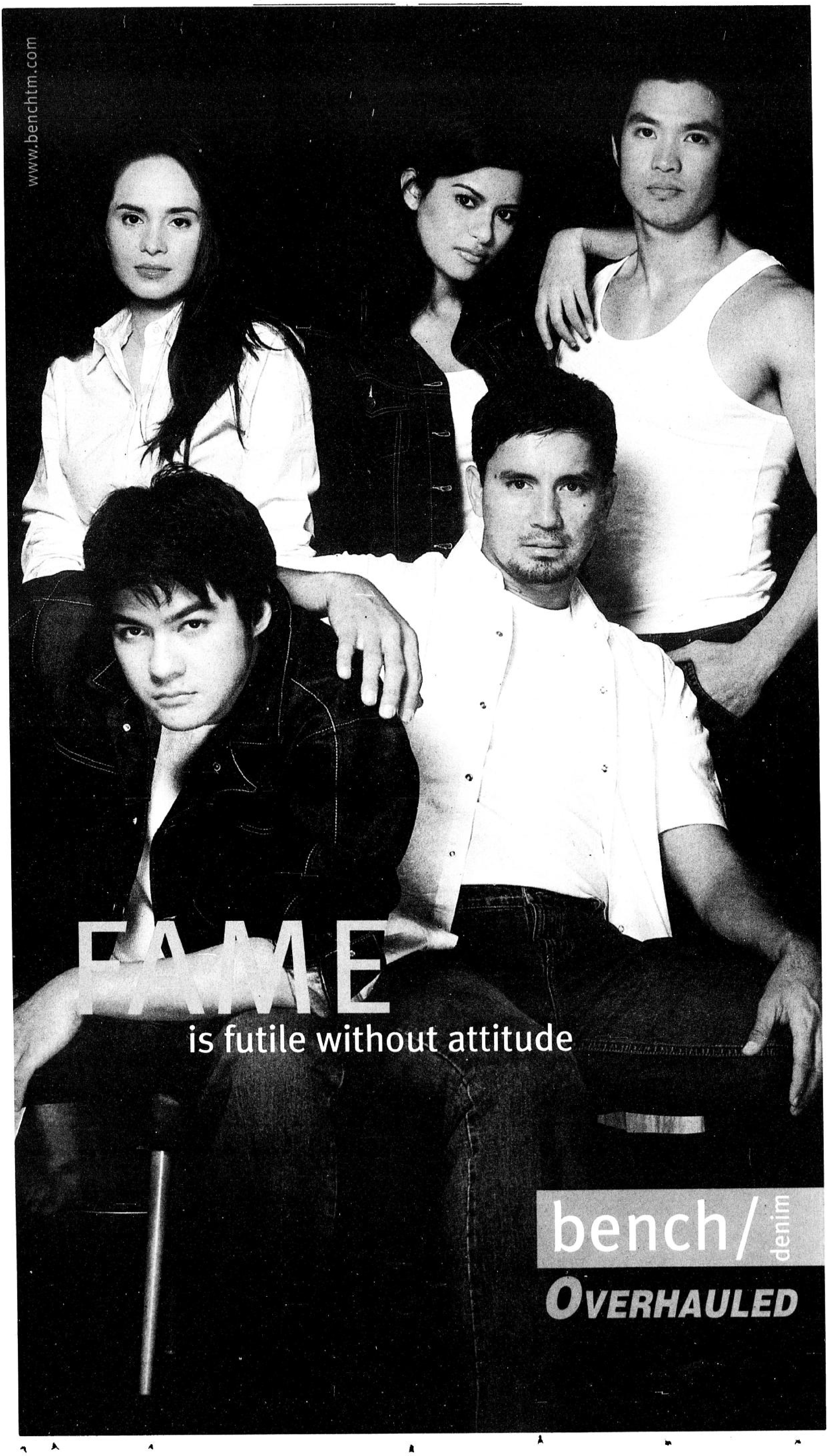
There is nothing egotistical about insisting on our own uniqueness.



Being unique is the least unique thing about us:
It is one quality we share with everyone.

An egotist needs followers, and all we are claiming is our right not to be led.

This is an important freedom because everybody evolves at a different rate. We have our own paths and our own natural pace.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Personal style and the new black

By Ed Lejano Jr.
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHAT do clothes say about a person? How is a personal style evolved? Can one be individualistic and stylish at the same time? Does a preference for Levi's, Versace, Kamiseta, Inno Sotto or Gaultier reveal anything?

Is your style retro or trendy, classic or exotic, punk or funk, *fashionista* or *mashista?*

Is the famous children's story about the emperor's new clothes an allegory for rugged individualism, or a cautionary tale about fashion victims?

These concerns surfaced one afternoon when a group of *stylemeisters* from the fields of music, theater, fashion, and culture gathered to discuss the subject of personal style. Among the questions fielded were, what to wear to the Oscar Awards . . . and to their own funerals!

The world of fashion has a uniqueness all its own. It is constantly changing, especially considering its efforts to appeal to consumers' fantasies, as well as their practical needs. As clotheshorses can become fashion victims or victors, clothes styles can swing from vintage to contemporary, minimalist to deconstructivist, boardroom to boudoir, glitter to sedate. A fantastically wide range of options is enough to drive one nuts.

When Umberto Eco said that he "speaks through" his clothes, it meant, presumably, that he used clothes to achieve the same things that words did.

Dianne Sison:

E! Philippines host, theater arts student, model
Personal style: Theater. Being a big fan of the stage, her closet is like a play, "a mix of characters that range from rave to a Miss Universe parade of nations."
Style icon: Definitely Madonna.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: My one and only Versace dress.
What I would wear to my own funeral: A bohemian dress by Chloe, with a rosary on my wrist and a single long-stemmed rose in my hand.
To the Oscars: A beautiful white Filipiniana number, *a la* Imelda Marcos but petite and sexy, with a low neck and back.
At a private party with a hedonistic ending: A buttoned-down
polo shirt, straight cut pants, belt, and boots, and the latest Victoria's Secret G-string underneath.
Wouldn't be caught dead in: An outfit that wasn't well put together.

Trends from street fashion and the all-encompassing stuff prescribed by everyday living has a trickle-up effect on design elites. Designers should not be like "birds of prey that rob the nests of other fashion influences, in a process of appropriation and cannibalization."

Instead a particular mode or trend may tap into everyday sensibilities and be popularized, in the same way that street fashion can, and often does, influence high fashion.

Post-modernism has thrust the term "bricolage" onto us as the reflection of current-style conditions. Defined as "the creation of new patterns and modes from the kaleidoscopic bits and pieces of cultural debris," bricolage seems to help make sense of the order/disorder in our daily lives.

IT'S BEEN MONDAY ALL WEEK

Ernest Concepcion:

Independent record label owner, Documento Records
Personal style: Spontaneous, recycled and relaxed. What I wear is a reflection of the music that I'm currently listening to.
Style icon: Tony Bennet.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: My wallet and action figures.
What I would wear to my own funeral: Something from *ukay-ukay*, like a recycled *barong.*
To the Oscars: I'd paint my naked body in gold, including my head, which I'd shave beforehand to resemble the award I'd receive!
And to a private party with a hedonistic ending: Something conservative on the outside, and a leopard-print thong underneath.
Wouldn't be caught dead in: House on fire!

Mads Adrias:

Producer, Fur Ball Productions & co-owner, Documento Records
Personal style: Relaxed, vintage and inexpensive. I rummage through my parents' old clothes...sometimes I put together a feminine look, sometimes androgynous, always funky.
Style icon: Chloe Sevigny.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: A polka-dotted, puff-sleeved jacket.
What I would wear to my own funeral: *Mala*-Cate Blanchette in "Lord of the Rings."
To the Oscars: An Armani suit and a thin tie.
And to a private party with a hedonistic ending: *Hmmm.*
Wouldn't be caught dead in: A frilly off-shoulder blouse.

The old adage that clothes make the person rings more true in contemporary times, now that clothing has ceased being just apparels for protection and modesty as the case used to be. Now personal fashion style is a vehicle for individual expression as well as of communication. It conveys social status, economic worth, political inclination, even recreational rituals.

There exists this trickle-down theory that fashion is dictated by elite designers and opinion leaders. This theory is passed on in bastardized versions to the masses, and is thus challenged by more and more people.

A sense of style in everyday living play is important to a great number of people. Trend cycles throb on as designers constantly search for the new black—and, of course, for new ideas, themes and motifs, inspirations for which could come from history, high and exotic cultures, pop and subcultures.

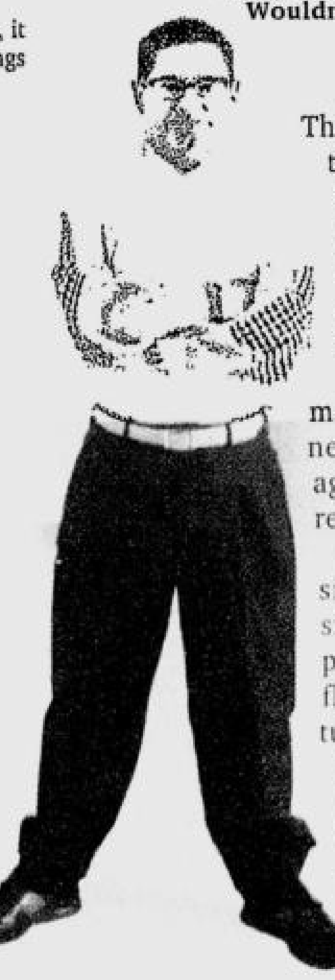
Tata Montilla:

Owner, Defect & 1:15 boutiques
Personal style: A reflection of life in the present. Classic or simple, it makes you stand out.
Style icon: Angelica of the Rugrats.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: Shoes!
What I would wear to my own funeral: I'll be cremated; I don't want people to see me when I'm dead.
To the Oscars: A real good suit.
And to a private party with a hedonist ending such as an orgy: Do I have to wear anything? Nothing too expensive—someone may steal it!
Wouldn't be caught dead in: A tube top!

Fashion is perplexing, intriguing, occasionally irritating and, above all, compulsive. Like it or not, it has a powerful hold over people—even those who eschew it. Reactions to fashion trends are ambivalent, but there is no doubt that personal style matters.

Philippe Normand:

Director, Alliance Française Manila
Personal style: Reflects the urban contradictions of modern living, admiring the juxtaposition of things that are off. Quiapo is a good example where such ironies of the big cities get played out.
Style icon: French sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: A watch.
What I would wear to my own funeral: A black suit from a designer that I liked just before I died. Paolo Raymundo is one young Filipino designer that I find interesting right now.
To the Oscars: If Mads wants to look like a cute guy, I can come as her escort wearing Marilyn Monroe!
And to a private party with a possibly hedonistic ending: A suit with glow-in-the-dark condoms.
Wouldn't be caught dead in: Pajamas.



The way people dress up is invested with tensions that relate to the instability of the times. Everyday we encounter things that are in direct opposition to others, weaving a mish-mash collage of contrasting, sometimes complementing, elements:

Work against play, youth against age, masculinity against femininity, inclusiveness against exclusivity, revelation against concealment, conformity against rebellion.

Such oppositions map extreme tensions concerning status, gender, occasion, body, and social regulation. Varied permutations of personal style, and the flexibility of fashion, reflect current cultural ambivalence.

People appear to be social and individual at the same time. Personal style is one way this complex set of desires may be negotiated because we may want to look like our friends, but not to be their clones.

Christine Carlos:

Singer/stage actress, independent filmmaker
Personal style: Brave, daring and unique. I hate to look like everyone else so I dress for fun and self-expression, not to impress others!
Style icon: Coco Chanel and Audrey Hepburn.
What I would retrieve from a burning house: My *lola's* antique *diamante* ring.
What I would wear to my own funeral: A Mexican-inspired wedding gown from Vic Barba. At least I'd get to wear one without actually getting married!
To the Oscars: Something Filipino, like a see-through *kimona* with lots of beadwork.
To a private party with a hedonistic ending: Leather mini with fishnet stockings and a lacy bra, boa feathers and a whip!
Wouldn't be caught dead in: Louis Vuitton bags or anything with designer logos.

Personal style then reflects one's own design philosophy, whether one dresses for success or excess, to follow dictates of designer fashion or to reflect underground trends or street styles.

Whether one's outlook is labeled as reverse snobbery or forward-thinking, rebel style-warrior or classic elegance, what counts most is what you are.

That's because there really are no limits in defining personal style, and because there's beauty and logic not only in the traditional and the tried-and-tested but also in the liberating madness of the off-kilter and the eccentric.

The terms "look" and "texture" are impulsive concerns in the search for basic things, as well as "function," "aesthetics," and "quirkiness."

So whatever pronouncements there may emerge about the latest fashion trend, or which color is of-the-moment, the verdict is: The new black is one's individuality.

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Aquarian keys of change

By Georgina C Solina
Contributor

THIS is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, as the song goes. Unlike in the past when discussions of spirituality were met with skepticism, we are more open to profound and mystical concepts. This is a time for discovery, cleansing and renewal, a fertile period for any form of self-exploration or self-development. Pluto is the universal force for purging negativity and merging with harmonious energies, so we can learn to unite with all of humanity.

> An upheaval is taking place on many levels

There are very few people on the planet who are really aware of what is going on, says Drunvalo Melchizedek, a lecturer-master guru whose "Flower of Life" workshops are famous worldwide. The number grows by the minute, however. The new millennium triggered this reawakening of human consciousness. In their hearts, people no longer like the way they live. They don't like war, rape, murder, corruption and garbage piling up in their midst.

The cosmic force of Pluto, the planet of transformation, is now crossing the Philippine ascendant in Sagittarius, sign of global awareness. Like it or not, cosmic vibrations that herald the laws of the new age of Aquarius are in place, dredging the profound contents of the psyche.

Previously unknown or unrecognized anger, sexuality, and power drives erupt and challenge our existing self-image. It is as though someone threw Pandora's Box open, exposing all evil-doings, crimes, frauds, and other activities hidden in the past decades. The people have seen, and the current administration has been challenged to clean up the mess and bring about changes. A superficial patching up will not do.

Birth pains

Pluto transiting the ascendant or First House of the Philippine horoscope signifies a time of rebirth. But because there is no birth without pain, this time is not without great difficulties. These areas are directly related to the physical body and Pluto's transit covers the years from 1987 to 2008. This corresponds with illnesses that profoundly affect our lives, and will operate on a global scale. Unprecedented flooding and other calamities will occur. A scientific report reveals a possible decline of world population during this period of cleansing and renewal. To survive the pulverizing impact of Plutonian energies, we must gather our inner strength by become more spiritual, especially in the political arena, wellspring of corruption and injustice. There should be no difference between our thoughts and our actions. Lawmakers become lawbreakers when they don't practice what they preach, or when what they say is the opposite of what they do. This results in darkness and chaos that engulf the nation. The self-image of the Filipino is a blur of confusion, in spite of sophisticated western education in some high places.

In the Age of Aquarius, we move towards that unity of the inner and outer selves. The principle of duality, or the good and evil within man, will cease to be valid. People will soon discover that their original nature is peace and purity, but that over time these virtues were overshadowed by negative action.

When we connect to our positive side, we develop clarity in decision-making. We heartily cheer our leaders who do their undaunted best to overcome fear, and will that government and private agencies in charge with the distribution of services, financial disbursement, and collection of revenues be cleaned up.

Henceforth we will elect only leaders who manifest distinctive abilities and persistence to carry out the clean-up programs initiated at the onset of the new millennium. So, evolution continues in spite of our fears that those in positions of power would continue to resist change.

Positive changes

Now we perceive on a visible level that a change is in progress, no matter what the noisy and the negatively critical say or do.

There are changes within our government and social circles because they are beginning to comprehend a larger perspective of reality. They are beginning to realize that what we are going through is a consciousness change; that the nature of reality is that there is only One life force.

In fact, a huge change is already taking place on many levels. For example, when we choose to accomplish our mission in life to help elevate consciousness everywhere, we suddenly and unexpectedly meet the right partners for the task. When we raise our consciousness by changing our old ways, and acknowledge the Divine within us, we become meditative and humble. We learn to collaborate with the inevitable, to find the meaning behind periods of upheaval, and to discover new depths in ourselves.

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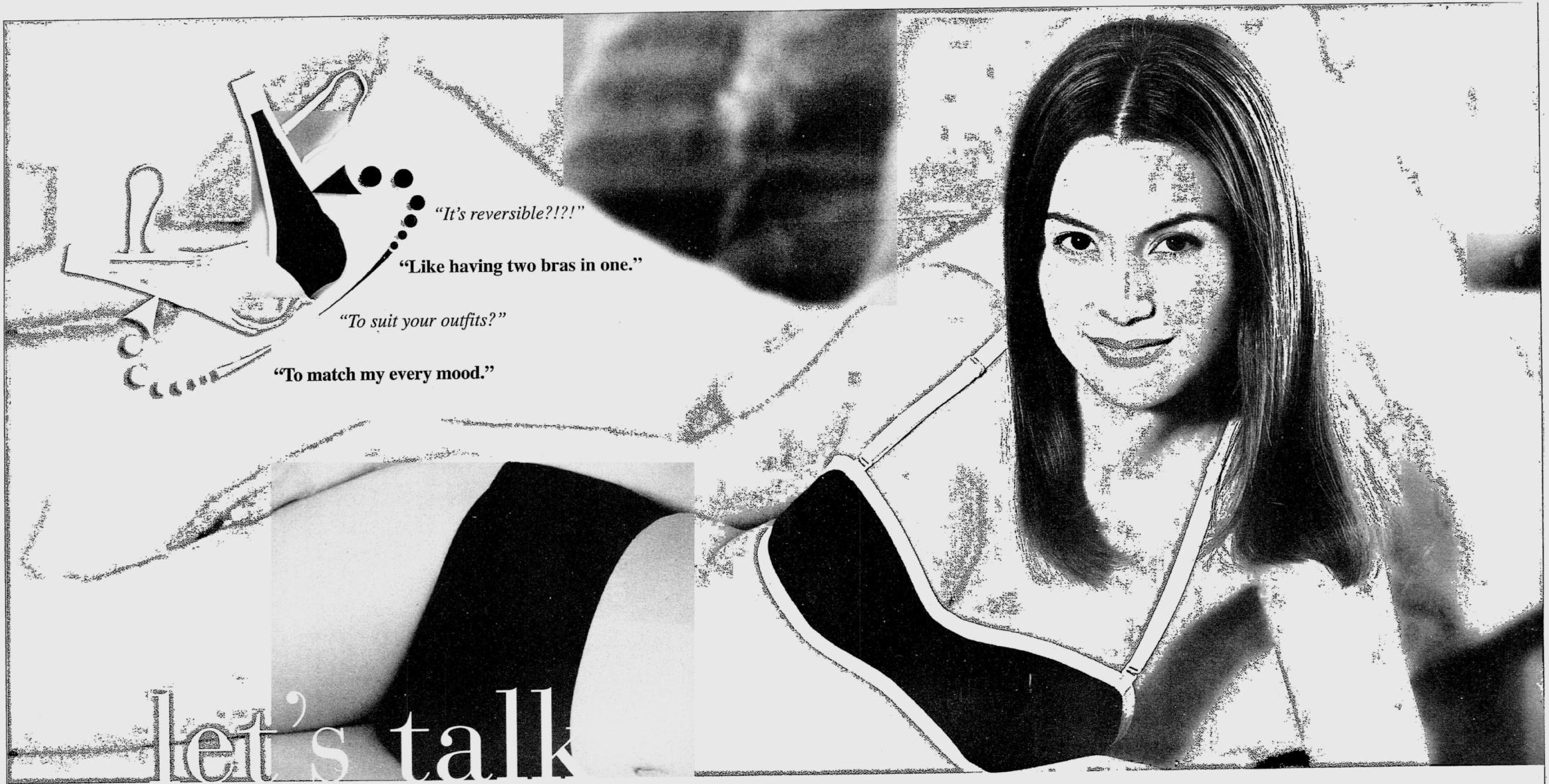
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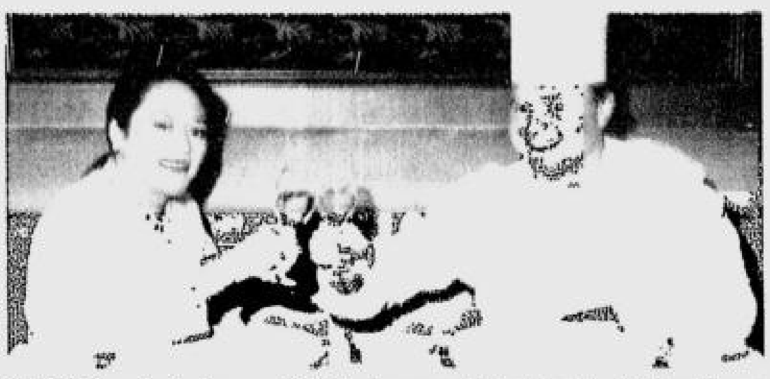


CHEFS Reggie Aspiras and Cyrille Soenen drink a toast to their culinary partnership at the Prince Albert Rotisserie

By Amando Doronila

FILIPINO and French businessmen are celebrating Philippine-French Friendship Week from Sept. 9 to 13. There will be business meetings and workshops on French technologies, as well as an art exhibit of works by Paris-based Filipino artists.

But the *coup the grace* of the event is a unique festival highlighting the combination of Filipino and French cuisines. I would consider the food "fete" a delightful bonus to serious conference work. Prince Albert Rotisserie of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, hosts the festival, which will not be limited to the conference participants or Francophiles, but which will be open to the public.

The cuisine is being described as "Filipino-French Fusion," but I believe it is more than that. Fusion is not sufficient to describe the gastronomic presentation. I like to think "culinary co-habitation" is a more evocative word, borrowing from a favorite French term in politics—i.e., producing harmony from diversity of different political tendencies.

Gastronomic uniqueness

Filipinos have a historical tradition of immersion in French cuisine. For example, at the state dinner during the inauguration of the first Philippine Republic in Malolos, French cuisine was served, concocted by a French chef, even though Spanish cuisine occupied a place of pride in the kitchen of upper-class Filipino *principalia* and *ilustrados*.

We were given a foretaste of this "fusion." As explained by Prince Albert Chef Cyrille Soenen from France and Filipino chef de cuisine, Regina "Reggie" Aspiras, their collaboration actually incorporates the best of Filipino cuisine and fresh ingredients within the framework of French cooking.

As any cook will tell you, the gastronomic uniqueness in any setting or country is determined by the availability or abundance of meats, chicken, fish and seafood, vegetables, herbs and fruits. In short, the menu concocted for the "fusion" week is a creative melding of two different gastronomic traditions harmoniously blended to complement each other, rather than bring out the contrasts.

Before the completion of the full menu, the two chefs presented an introductory combination. The first was a hot appetizer, which I will identify in its English translation —roast duck liver with *adobo rillette* of duck breast on a *pan de sal* French toast.

Duck breast adobo

The duck breast *adobo* was shredded, and tasted like *adobo* flakes scraped from the cooking pan. It shared a plate with "*escalope de* Foie Gras *de* Canard" separated by a small cluster of green salad of different colors. Its flavor was enhanced by blueberry sauce (from France) with Palawan honey. The *adobo* duck sauce had soy sauce and—like any *adobo*—a vinegar accent, but the chefs used wine vinegar, not the strong "Iloko" variety.

Main dish was roasted Chilean sea bass *a la pobre*, with *pequillos* puree and braised baby potatoes. The sea bass was succulent and sprinkled with garlic, and garnished with *malunggay* pan-fried in olive oil. The taste of the fish was somewhat like *escabeche*, derived from red wine vinegar. Dessert consisted of honey raspberry and native fruit minestrone, topped with *kesong puti*, watermelon sherbet and polenta crisp.

The red wine that the chef recommended was the 1998 Petite Ruche Crozes-Hermitage from the M. Chapoutier vineyard in the Rhone Valley; and for white wine, the 1998 Saint-Veran white Burgundy. These choices were excellent.

The completed special menu displays more examples of two different cuisine traditions mingling into one another rather harmoniously. For fish, the menu includes *bangus* belly *tatin* with garlic, served with onion marmalade and crispy potatoes scented with truffle; lobster and seafood *cassollette* with coconut milk, chick pea pancake and *gabi*; Spanish *gindara* served with tomatoes and *bagoong* risotto; and herb-crusted Lapu-lapu, *malunggay* mashed potatoes and crispy leeks.

Meat dishes excite the imagination. There is toasted suckling pig and braised crispy farmer bacon served with chanterelle and sautéed banana heart. Two other novelties are honeyed lamb *kare-kare* served with *bagoong* sauce with braised vegetable and couscous; and duck Magret "Pritchon Style" with *pandan* pancake and spring onion served with two sauces.

Appetizers

For soup, the choices include: Cappuccino *mongo* soup with garlic *longanisa*, creamy broth of *alimango* with crispy coriander scented with coconut milk, royale smoked prawns in *pomodoro sinigang* soup; mixed *camote* cream; and chilled or hot veal shank consommé *bulalo* style with truffle oil.

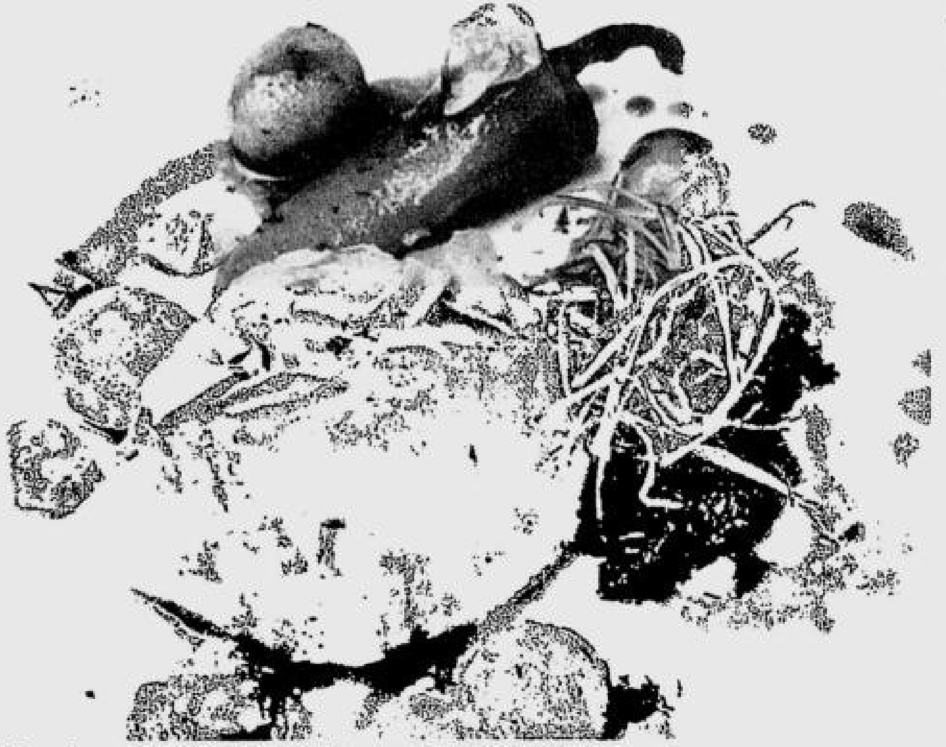
Among the cold appetizers are fresh *pandan* crepe *lumpia* stuffed with salmon and vegetable, caramelized walnut and fresh coriander salad; yellow and green mango salad with lace of *tilapia*; and freshly cooked rock lobster on a bed of mixed bean and tomato salad, accented with *ube* dressing and crispy *pili* nut.

And for hot appetizers, one can have, aside from *escalope de* Foie Gras *de* Canard, brown sea scallop served with *talangka* risotto and watercress sauce, and crispy *alamang*; and braised pork feet trotter *carpaccio* marinated with soy sauce and sesame oil, *sisig* and roast prawn wrapped in *pancetta*.

From this "fusion" one may suffer an identity crisis—with East meeting West—in the culinary cosmic world. But who cares about flags on the gastronomic table in which one cuisine is enriched by another? We are not talking about a "clash of civilizations" popularized by Harvard Prof. Samuel Huntington. Historically, food has crossed geographical, religious and cultural barriers—and the outcome has always been pleasing to the palate of any nationality.

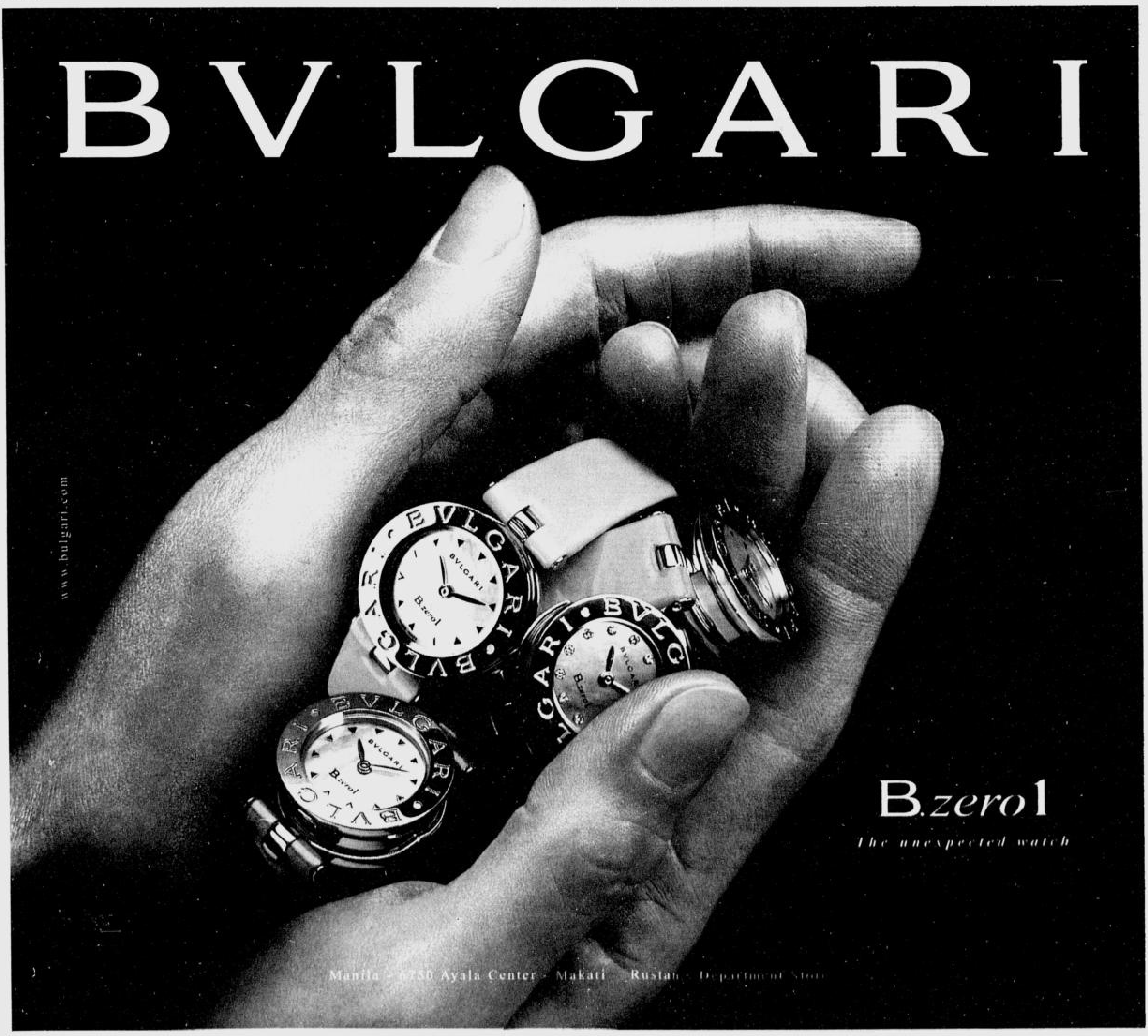
(Hotel Intercontinental's Prince Albert Rotisserie will hold a food festival from Sept. 9 to 25. For reservations call 815-9711.)

That's 'fusion,' in more evocative terms befitting this celebration of Filipino and French cuisines



ROASTED sea bass *a la pobre* with *pequillos* puree and braised baby potatoes

HONEY raspberry and rhum-flambéd native fruit minestrone topped with kesong puti blancmange and served with polenta crips



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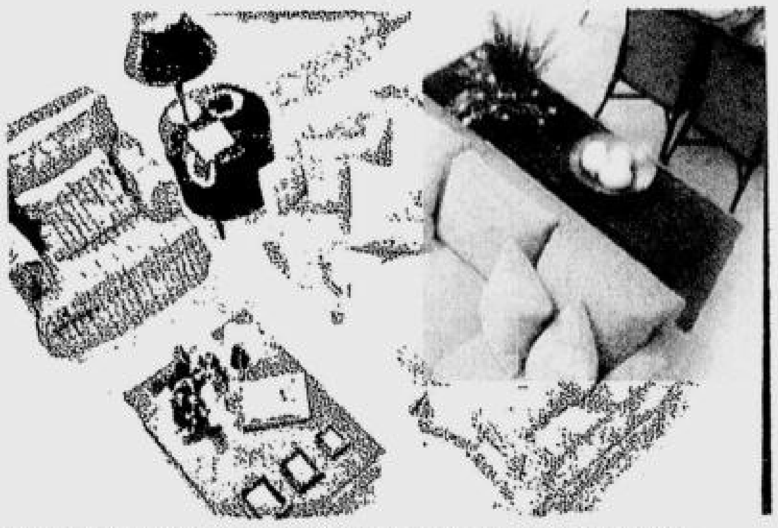

THE RESIDENCE at Greenbelt living room: showcase for Filipino artistry.

HEADBOARD, cabinetry and other pieces in the master bedroom showcase different ways with wood.

THE OFFICE-DEN: lamps, coffee tables and frames of similar design would cost six to eight times more in the US.

Filipino artistry goes cutting-edge

By Berry P. Marfori
Contributor
Photos by Edwin Tuyay

EXCEPTIONAL Filipino design and craftsmanship, particularly in furniture and home accessories, have made the Philippines stand out in the global market. Ironically for locals, few opportunities exist to fully appreciate and experience what the inspired Filipino designer and craftsman can do.

Interior designer Bernie Miranda, who has 32 years of experience designing hotels and other hospitality establishments internationally, provides one such opportunity at The Residence in Greenbelt, in Ayala Center Makati.

In this 28-townhouse cluster, Miranda illustrates how Filipino home products and crafts have evolved from folksy to cutting-edge contemporary. The cluster has both unfurnished and fully furnished units for lease, and he designs some of the furnished units.

Inspirations

Miranda says his inspiration comes from two of The Residence's target markets—expats assigned to the Philippines for one or two years, and business executives from the surrounding financial center. Knowing that these special clients look for world-class homes and apartments, the designer vowed that their expectations would be fully met by the developers, Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI).

The Miranda units certainly illustrate the Filipino craftsman's easy familiarity with wood, in innovative ways. In the spacious and airy living cum dining area, the base of the dining table is hardwood exquisitely molded to resemble smooth latticework, a design echoed by the base of the coffee table. Both are topped with what look like finely finished solid slabs of wood—an impression Miranda shoots down by pointing out their hollow undersides. The secret is in the finish, he says, which elegantly masks the joinery of the *tanguile* veneer tops.

Side and coffee tables likewise take on new shapes—circular and oval—a feat made possible by new machinery and laminating processes. Not to be outdone, headboards and entertainment cabinetry in the ground floor den and in the two bedrooms above also show off fine wood grains, this time in veneers with diamond, triangular and square patterns.

Even as a senior designer in a leading US interior design firm, Miranda recalls, he was a proponent of Filipino artistry, as was his American boss. For The Residence, Miranda promotes these talents once more, by presenting the designs of tables, lamps, and chandeliers that are the most sought-after in American markets.

Of his suppliers, the designer required actual-size drawings or blueprints of every piece of furniture to be manufactured, and modified these as necessary. Next, prototypes were built and personally tested by Miranda. Only after rigorous quality checks were they approved for production.

"We knew that, with just a little bit of exposure, Filipino talents could do it," Miranda smiles.

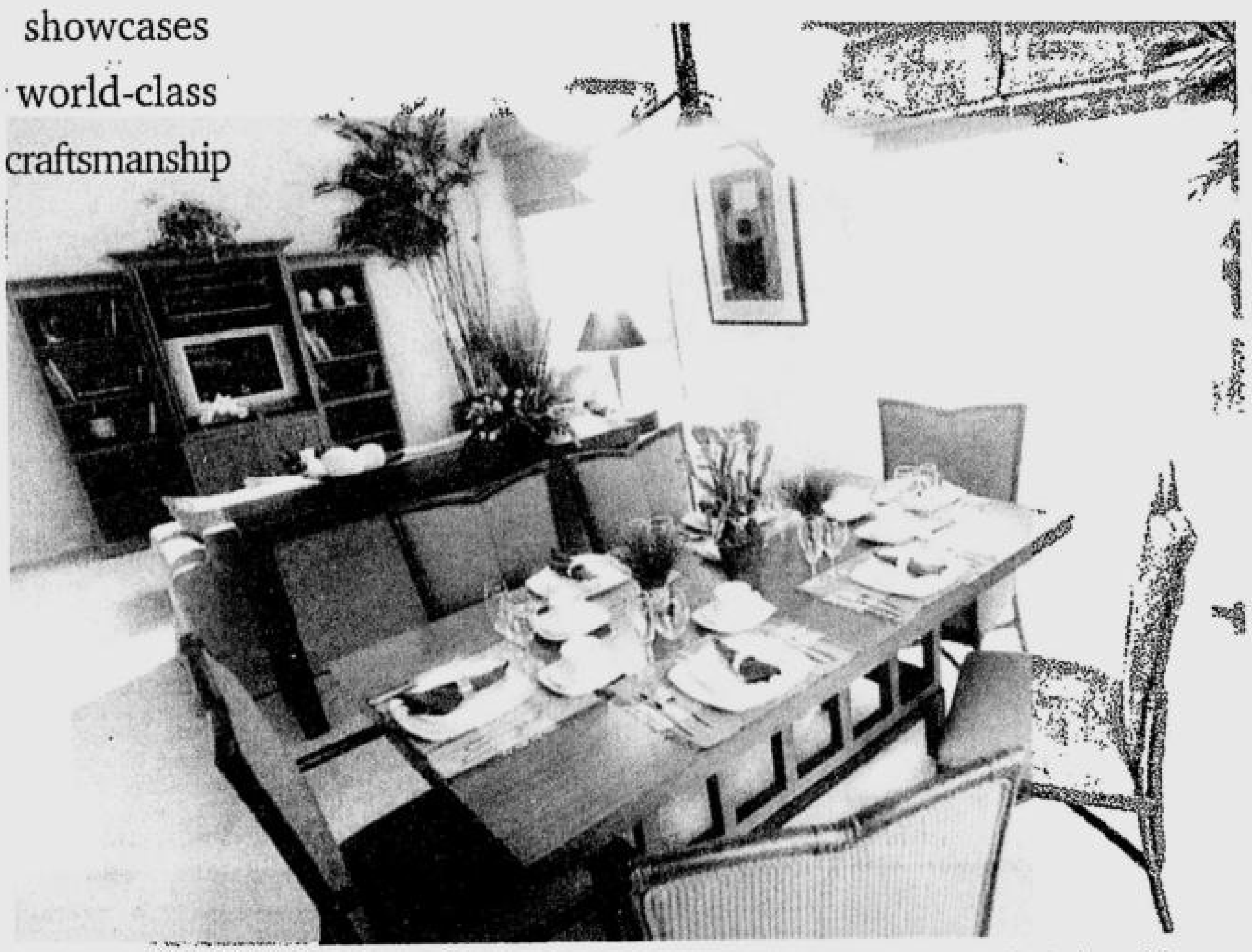
Cost-efficient

The best thing about the pieces that allow for quality living at The Residence, is that they are "a sixth to an eighth of what they would cost in the US." Miranda's sleek wood coffee table supported by a chrome base and legs and found in the office-den, for instance, would easily easily $500. The modern chandelier over the dining table would be in about the same price range. Both cost very much less to manufacture locally and this is Miranda's motivation for embarking on his next project—to convince more of his American colleagues about the superiority of Filipino workmanship.

Prospective Greenbelt residents would be glad to know that the units' interiors are matched by high standards of property management. To start with, the residential project is right above the cafes, restaurants and entertainment places of the Ayala Center.

According to ALI vice-president Angela De Villa Lacson, Ayala Land has accumulated enough experience and technology to assure the maintenance of a high quality of life within the development over the long-term. This is what "world-class" is all about.

The Residence in Greenbelt showcases world-class craftsmanship


THE BASE of the dining table is solid wood molded to resemble latticework. The design is echoed in the base of the coffee table.

Dance revitalizes

The secret to a being dexterity or ingenuity is varying your interest. Don't get inside a rut of paper chase or a sedentary lifestyle. Take up other interests such as dance. By putting some changes in your life, you keep yourself pliant, versatile and young. By pursuing an interest with enthusiasm and commitment, you defy the mental and physical challenges that are satisfying.

The Perry Sevidal School offers ballet and jazz for children and adults. It will hold a formal blessing on Sept. 10. For details call 895-7812 and 895-3162. Located at 8883 Sampaloc Ave., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

THE MOST vital element of the Thai wedding ceremony is the "Rot Naam" or pouring of the "lustral water" (which has been blessed by a Buddhist priest) from a holy conch shell

Thai the knot in Bangkok

FOR couples looking for a wedding with a difference, The Peninsula Bangkok has introduced a Thai wedding package to celebrate their union Thai-style with a traditional Thai wedding ceremony.

The new Thai wedding package includes hire of traditional Thai silk wedding outfit, corsages, flowers, dowry bowls and trays, dancers, musicians, wedding cake, plus a host of other benefits.

It takes place in the Thai Sala overlooking the Chao Phraya River in the lush garden of The Peninsula Bangkok.

Floral fair on Sept. 14-15

THE RACHY Z. Cuna Cup will be held on Sept. 14 and 15 at Skyline on the mezzanine floor of the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Pasay City. This is in line with the Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center, Inc "Floral Fusion," a two-day event featuring 2002 Floral Rhapsody.

In Floral Rhapsody, slated on Sept. 14 Rachy Cuna of the Philippines, florists Phubast "Poo" Chedsdmethee of Thailand and Anson Low of Singapore will present designs and techniques in flower arrangement. In this special session and workshop, florists and flower enthusiasts will have the opportunity to upgrade their skills and improve their talent.

On Sept. 15, Sunday, the Rachy Z. Cuna Cup will be give a study grant to Singapore or a cash prize of P50,000, along with a trophy to the winner in the pro category. The amateur winner will receive P20,000 and a trophy and a chance to compete in the professional level next year,

For inquiries and registration, call Letty de Castro of FACDCI at 725-8986, 722-8644, 411-1486 (telefax); Beth Lopez of FACDCI at 724-6757 (telefax); Melanie or Cynthia of Casa Flores de Belen at 893-9807, 814-0847, 893-9626 (telefax); or Ofelia of Kyoto Flower Shop at 526-1367.

Coffee moods

FILIPINOS are discovering that there's more to coffee than being brewed or black, bold or blended.

Starbucks offers a variety of specialty coffees that come in three new profiles.

"Mild" consists of lively, refreshing flavors. Aside from the house blend, decaf house, and Columbia Nariño, there are seasonal offerings like Shade Grown Mexico, Brazil Ipanema Bourbon and Costa Rica BV.

Under "Smooth" are rich and sophisticated tastes such as Yukon Blend, Espresso Roast, Arabian Mocha Java, Decaf Mocca Java and Guatamala Antigua, New Guinea Peaberry and Estate Java.

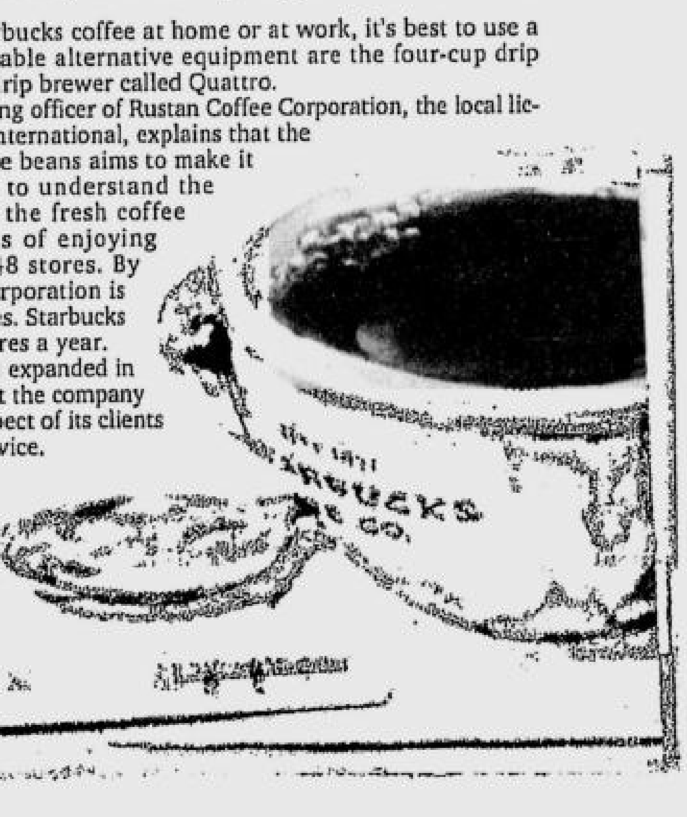
"Bold" coffees in full strength refer to Gold Coast Blend, Kenya Ethipia Sidamo, Aramian Mocha Sanani, Sumatra and Decaf Sumatra. The Christmas Blend and All Aged Coffees are seasonal offerings in this category.

All these coffees are available in a bold, new package design that tells the story of coffee and educate consumers on the individual flavors. The beans are stored in Flavorlock bags, with a one-way valve that keeps oxygen out while releasing coffee gasses.

For those who brew Starbucks coffee at home or at work, it's best to use a French press. Recommendable alternative equipment are the four-cup drip brewer and the automatic drip brewer called Quattro.

Noey Lopez, chief operating officer of Rustan Coffee Corporation, the local licensee of Starbucks Coffee International, explains that the reclassification of the coffee beans aims to make it easier for the consumers to understand the product categories. And, the fresh coffee beans are another means of enjoying Starbucks outside of its 48 stores. By yearend, Rustan Coffee Corporation is targeting 53 Starbucks stores. Starbucks opens an average of 10 stores a year.

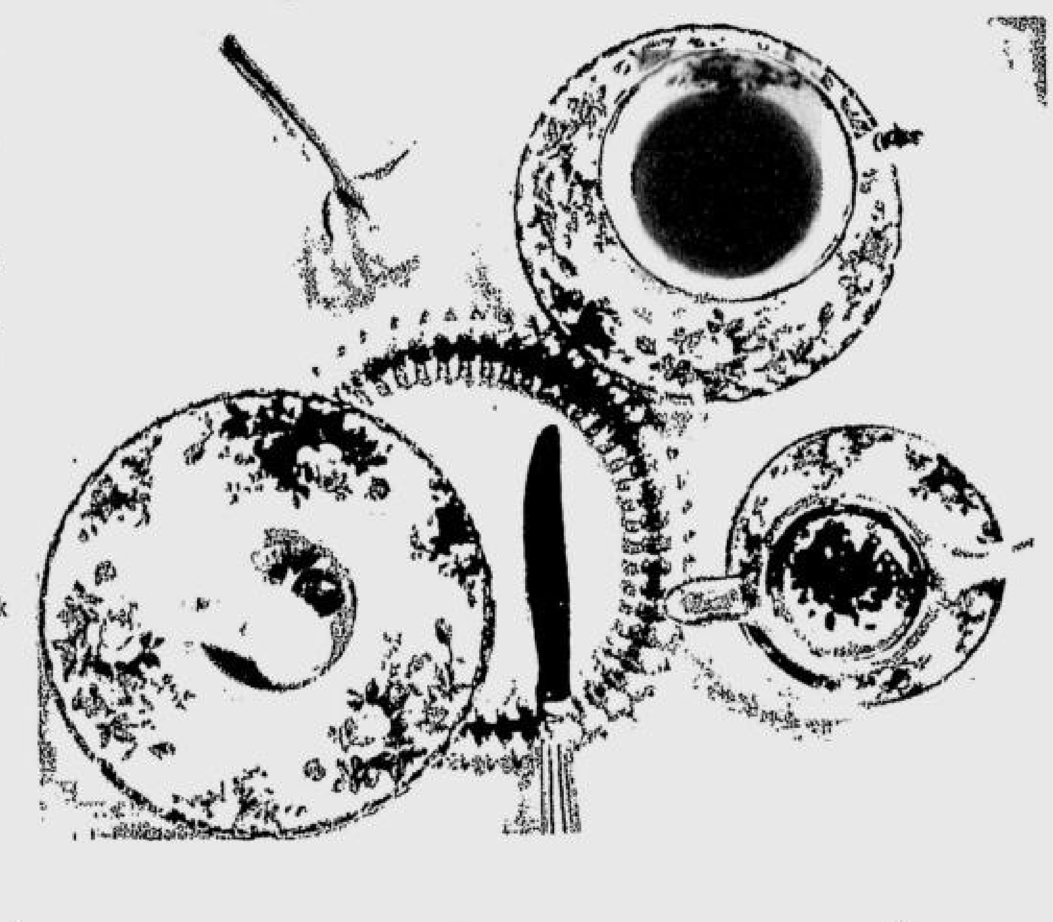
Asked how Starbucks has expanded in five years, Lopez replies that the company has to keep earning the respect of its clients by giving them the best service.



Hi-jinks at high tea

Photo by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction: Albert Avellana

Experience high tea at Shangri-La Makati's Lobby Lounge. The tea set includes scones served with homemade Cebu mango jam and Devonshire dotted cream, French pastries, tea sandwiches such as mini vegetarian bagels, and smoked salmon. They go with traditional afternoon teas such as the classic Early Grey, flavored black teas and specialty teas. At a recent Bvlgari fashion show, the tea selections were served in Bvlgari china.



Turning a new leaf

PHOTOS: PATRICK UY

There is another kind of time that doesn't follow the tyranny of the clock, calendar or Palm Pilot. We have our inner own inner cycle throughout the year that presents an unhurried timetable and symbolic outline for us to start to ponder on the self, to be aware of our reality and to live by what is true. Working in that context, we settle down to a more natural rhythm in our lives. We also learn to be patient. Over time we will have many opportunities to open ourselves to self-revelation.

Makeup: MAC Denim collection

Summer
is the time
to grow up
by developing
the
awareness
of the
spirit
and its
potentials.

Now is the time to
awaken the spirit.

Makeup: Paula Dorf

The
autumn
of our
lives
is the
time
to reflect
on change
and decay.

Makeup: Clarins waterproof makeup

Makeup: Chanel Fall-Winter Collection

Recognize the miracle of
nature through observation
and contemplation

Makeup: MAC Smolder collection

The winter of our of lives
is the time to let go and
take stock of deep truths.

Makeup: Christian Dior

The sleeping bud of
self-awareness
could flower
within us
at any time.
It blooms
whenever we make
ourselves available
to its gifts.

CREDITS:
MODELS:
BESSIE BADILLA
DEL-CASTILLO,
ANGEL JACOB
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
TOTO BAGAMASBAD,
MIKEE RAYMOUNDO
FOR MAC
SHAWLS:
DITA SANDICO-ONG
35 WILSON ST.
GREENHILLS
**ALL COSMETICS
AND SHAWLS**
AVAILABLE AT RUSTAN'S
PAGE DESIGN BY
LYNETT VILLARIBA

Vivien Tan's one constant challenge

Hair and makeup by Eric Faury and Angelo Justin
Gown: Inno Sotto
Location: Mandarin Oriental Manila

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy
Pictorial direction by Antonio S. Santos

LUX Academy's image model Vivien Tan sits in a Mandarin Hotel suite, puffing on a cigarette while waiting for her photo call.

Her hair has been pulled back and accentuated with a faux halo, done by Eric Faury. Although the pictorial's concept is celebrating pulchritude, Tan talks about how beauty is more than skin deep.

Lux Academy is the shampoo brand's marketing peg, projected as a resource area for beauty and well-being. Coincidentally, Tan has a beauty school of her own.

Part Malaysian, Chinese and Australian, Tan hosts Channel V's "The Juice," "V Countdown," and "Star Asia Travel." She has had a fulfilling career as a model, too.

Now she puts all her experience to even better use by establishing The Academy, a finishing school in Singapore that prepares aspiring models and women to face the real world.

Tan says that even after graduation, many girls still don't have the skills to present themselves to prospective employers. The Academy offers certificate programs in Beauty Basics, Fashion Flair and Runway Poise.

In Beauty Basics, Tan says, students learn about grooming, makeup to suit their face shape and skin tone, fashion, and silhouettes. Experts from major makeup brands will teach them how to create the looks that are best for them.

Fashion Flair covers the clothing history, including the major capitals where trends are set.

"It aims to teach today's youth what fashion is. They think classics refer to jeans and t-shirts, not Grace Kelly. Once they are armed with the right information, they can make right decisions," says Tan. Aspiring models also learn how to walk down the ramp and carry gowns, as well as backstage etiquette.

Tan underscores the importance of learning the psychology of dressing. Women, she insists, should understand how to dress appropriately and create a good impression during job interviews.

"Hopefully, the girls will create a flair for fashion that is also an extension of their personality. Ninety percent of what you say is non-verbal," says Tan.

We ask: How old is Lux Academy's classy endorser?

"My real age or what the agency says?" Tan shoots back.

She is unabashed about being 31, despite the fact that the modeling industry can be unforgiving about age. Tan observes that women, no matter how beautiful they are, tend to go off-track when they base their self-esteem on their looks.

"How do I see myself?" This is a basic question that many, many people give the wrong answers to, she said. People define themselves by external, rather than internal, factors. They have been conditioned to identify themselves with things that they are not: perpetual youth and thinness, their job, their value in terms of connections and possessions, what *fashionistas* call "must-haves of the season," or status symbols.

A great deal of unhappiness is caused by the tension between one's public self and inner self. Tan reveals she has also experienced vulnerable moments, when she identified herself with her role as a celebrity who has to meet society's expectations.

"In the modeling industry, you have go out, do the scene, say the right things. That's how models are promoted. But you can't please all the people all the time. You have to be yourself."

Tan has taken risks to express her views on certain issues, and so she is known for being outspoken. She realizes that a sense of security doesn't come from these external factors; it comes from self-awareness, which is a conscious process.

"Self-discovery is one of the constant challenges in life," she says. "By making mistakes and learning along the way, you get to know who you are. What's it all about? Change is half the fun of being alive."

In the path of self-discovery, revelation can happen any minute. The journey within is a silent reflection to find the core of light that is who we are.

'Self-discovery is a conscious process. Change is half the fun of being alive'

Spa-dee-da

A most delectable way to come undone starts with the hair

By Bea P. Valdes
Contributor

THERE are twin schools of thought when it comes to hair products.

One takes the trip-hippy path of the all-natural. The other is, well, rocket science. Advocates of the holistic approach extol the virtues of the avocado, oatmeal, apricot, coconut and lime. Shampoos seem plucked right out of the orchard, ripe for slathering on virgin hair.

But in an age where the dyed, bleached, bonded and permed are the majority, we sometimes find more effective answers via science. As a friend comments in the language of lathering: "A banana on my head is a banana, is a banana, is a banana...and my hair is still dry."

The alternative branch delves into the research of hair technology, employing such phrases as "reinforces cohesion in the stratum corneum and improves its barrier function." This is just a fragment in the equation meant to identify exact the point where the hair care experience turns into one of sweet bliss.

Sweet bliss

L'Oreal's Kerastase team chose to explain their philosophy in a three-day "sensorial experience" held recently at Karon Villa, in Phuket. After all, Kerastase's strength is spelled in its products' performance. "Result oriented," in the words of Gary Lim of Mahogany Salon of Singapore .

No doubt. Having heard countless testimonies of "massacred," over-dyed hair, we have witnessed hair resurrected with a healthy dose of Vita Cement. We have heard of Salon absolution: one enters the parlor in shame and disgust, and emerges a shiny, happy individual.

Only the expertise of stylists can achieve this state of grace. Lim calls them "therapists." They literally diagnose a person's hair type and condition. Then they prescribe a product from their wide range of items, the best-suited to enhance and revitalize the client's hair.

Overall well-being is another part of their healing process. The salon staff's attention to details and their massage methods certainly help soothe madness.

A certain kind of stress management has emerged in recent years: one that is dispensed in salons. As Kerastase explains, "Women want to live fully and are on all fronts at once. Work, relationship, children, and leisure—they want it all. The miracle is, they can handle it.

But often, a woman in a hurry can turn into a woman in a flurry." This flurry can result in scalp sensitivity, marked by itching and redness.

Scalp stress

Kerastase research shows that over one in three women are subject to scalp stress. Their prescribed medication: spiritual wellbeing, which finds in its core pleasure from relaxing massages and healing of the body in spas. From this, they have formulated a variety of "sensorial innovations" that sound strangely appetizing, not just moisturizing:

"Richness of a mild, delicate, pearly cream.' "Softness of a tender blue texture, "Purity of a gelled texture, "A fruity, floral woody fragrance..."

Definitely, just desserts for the stressed. And yet, these are all scientifically arrived at, based on "80 consecutive tests carried out in United States, France and Italy," and evidence of the Dermo-Calm fragrances' relaxing virtues.

To complete the experience, it is essential that the product is properly applied. Ms Nunnapatt, an expert in eastern and western massage, explains both technique and essence behind touch therapy. There are delicious ways of massaging a person into submissive oblivion, but she expounds on the attitude that the therapist should have.

Smile

"Smile," she suggests. "It costs you nothing, and yet makes another person feel good." Massage is an act of giving, of soothing, of searching for quiet time, she says. One abandons negativity and gives love. She explains: "If the therapist is angry or distracted, this same energy will be transmitted to the client."

Ms Nunnapatt asks her listeners to participate in an exercise to free the mind of complications. She coos to Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon:

"Look at me as if it's the last day of your life here on earth."

Victor looks around nervously. "But tomorrow, I am going to Phi Phi Island."

The guests in the three-day event found many other ways to achieve pleasant forgetfulness. They were spoilt with individual massages, and pamper-soaked in fragrant spices. By far the most stressful event they were alloweld to experience was feeding a baby elephant.

"Hair is the roof of the soul," we are told. In its mission of caring for the hair, Kerastase has take on both technology and traditional therapy, providing women all over the world with the most delectable way to come undone.

Vitamins from nature

STUDIES show that antioxidants can retard the aging process due to sun damage. Vitamin E is the most popular antioxidant to combat photo aging. The body without any side effects absorbs ENat Vitamin E. It is derived from natural resources such as cereal seeds, oils from corn, wheat germ, sunflower, and soybean.

NATURAL VITAMIN E
ENAT400
30 Capsules
NATURAL VITAMIN
ENAT 100

Seeing the light

ASIANS are literally seeing the light with a new skin-care technology that banishes years from the face.

Photorejuvenation is a treatment that uses light to penetrate the skin to remedy flaws such as pigments, birthmarks, small red veins and acne.

The patented name is Intense Pulsed Light or IPL technology.

This refers to light that is transformed into heat energy as it comes in contact with the level of the collagen.

"IPL is a multi-beam light, not.a laser, that goes from a frequency of 515 to 1200 nanometers. A laser is a single-beam light," explains Dr. Victoria "Vicky" Belo, dermatologist. The Belo Medical Clinic uses the Quantum SR Photorejuvenation System.

How is it done?

Metal plates are placed over the patient's eyelids to protect the eyes from bright light. A cold gel is spread on the area to be treated. The tubular glass tip of the IPL handpiece is applied to the skin. This is called the contact cooling system, that not only protects the skin but also provides a healing effect.

Vibrations of light are emitted and infiltrate the skin.

"The procedure freezes the top layer, so when the light goes through, it spares the top skin and goes deep down inside," says Belo.

"The objective is to penetrate into the intermediate reticular zone of the dermis, which produces the elastin and collagen, without damaging the skin. We tell the patient we only go as deep as we can," says Belo.

A study conducted by the Tokyo Women's Medical University Daini Hospital concluded that photorejuvenation using IPL with contact cooling was safe and effective for Asian patients.

The patients that participated in the study did not experience redness or added pigmentation after each session. There was minimum downtime; thus, it was proven suitable for active lifestyles. The treatments were well tolerated by all 73 patients, who underwent a series of five of more full-face treatments.

Photorejuvenation, a new 'contact cooling' treatment for pigments, birthmarks, small red veins and acne has been proven safe and effective, especially for Asians

Improvements

Results were evaluated on the basis of improvement in five areas—pigmentation, broken blood vessels, fine wrinkles, skin texture and over-all appearance. After the fifth treatment, majority recorded a 60 percent improvement.

Generally, Belo says, Caucasians are more concerned with reduction of wrinkles and acne scars. Asians are more interested in the treatment of pigmentation. Since Asian skin contains more melanin, it is a stronger absorber of light.

Belo explains: "If you look under the skin, pigments look like big dark balls. The body can't flush them out. IPL breaks the pigments into smaller particles. The body has microfibers that work like Pacman. They go around and eat all the debris. Once the particle is small enough for the microfibers to absorb, little pigments go away. You will see results after five sessions."

The most popular skin rejuvenation procedures used to be laser resurfacing, dermabrasion, glycolic peel and the blue peel, a secret formulation patented by Dr. Zein Obagi.

DR. Victoria Belo says she's had the best skin tone since she was 18.

When Belo studied laser resurfacing in the States, she observed that the procedure was more suited for Caucasians. For Filipinos, the results were not as satisfactory, and complications were noted after the treatment.

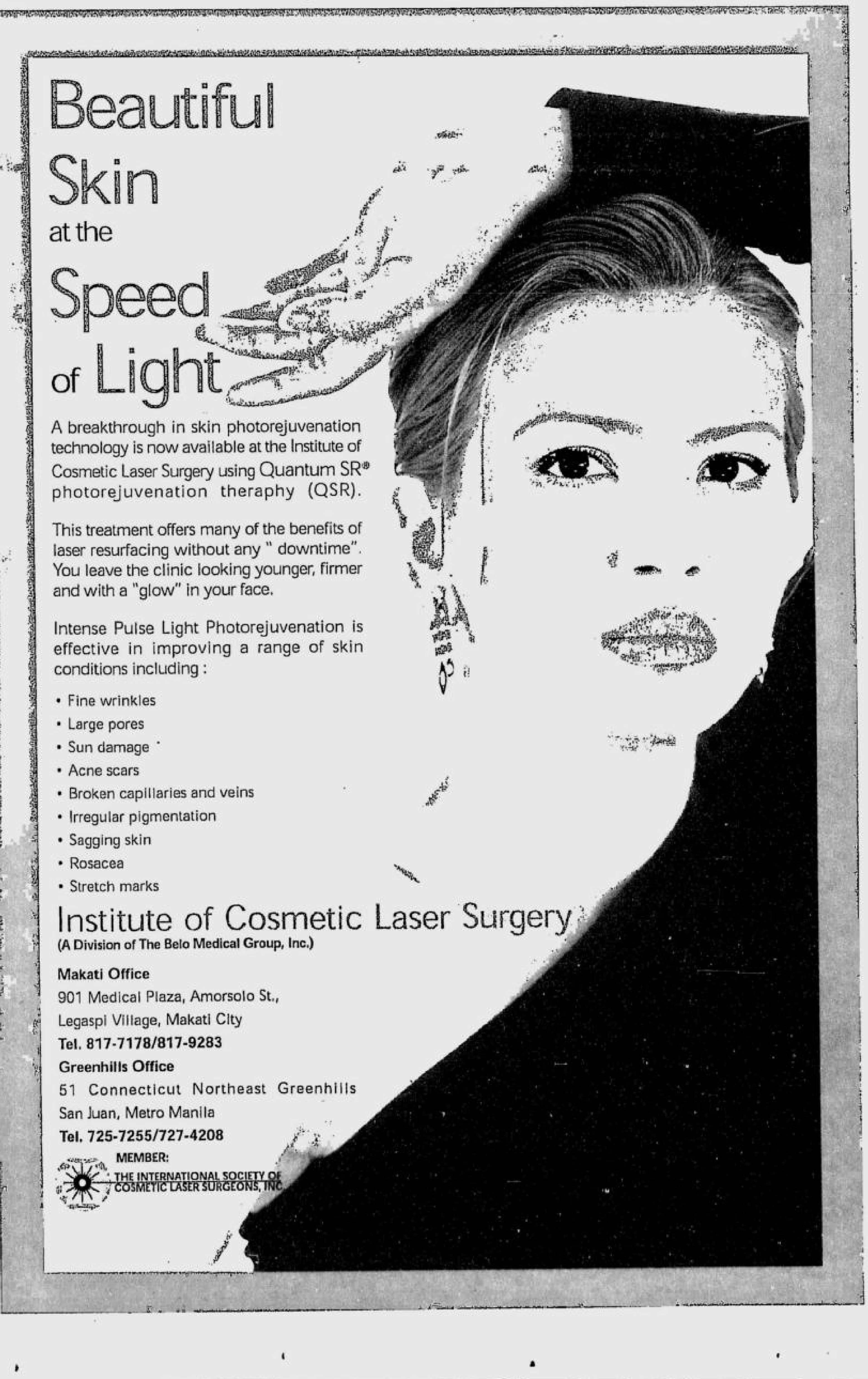
Great skin

Meanwhile, other peels worked superficially on the skin. "You got rid of the old skin but you didn't create collagen and elastin," says Belo.

The blue peel, made from trichloroacetic acid, not only tightened the skin but also helped stimulate production of collagen and elastin. However, patients had to hide for a month because their skin turned red.

"IPL does helps create collagen and elastin without the resultant redness or pigmentation. It's not as aggressive as the other treatments, and it takes five sessions to get the benefits of a blue peel. But it doesn't interfere too much with the patients' lifestyles. It's great for rosacea (pimples around nose and chin and redness) and acne," says Belo.

"This is the best skin I've had since I was 18 and I haven't had a facial in a month," declares Belo who, at 45, certainly doesn't look her age. "After my fourth IPL treatment, my face has tightened. My pores are smaller. I'm doing IPL on my hands, neck and breasts. I can feel a marked change in textures. I'm experimenting on IPL for dark armpits, too. IPL helps smoothen and blast the hair follicles." ***Marge Enriquez***



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Harrison Ford defends controversial 'K-19' role

By Shasta Darlington

VENICE—All-American action hero Harrison Ford on Sunday defended his controversial portrayal of a Russian submarine captain in "K-19: The Widowmaker," a movie strongly criticized by the original crew.

Actual events

According to the credits, "K-19" is inspired by actual events and is set aboard a Soviet nuclear submarine on the verge of a meltdown in 1961. To prevent a nuclear disaster, the captain and crew race to repair a reactor.

Ford plays Capt. Alexei Vostrikov—a fictitious name—as a heartless taskmaster at the helm of the K-19 on its maiden voyage to carry out an important missile test.

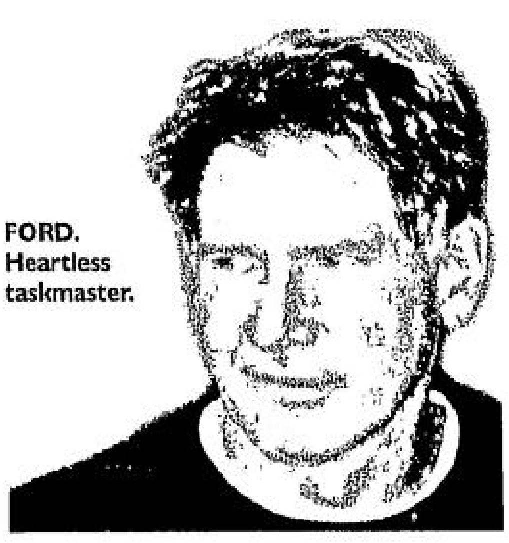
But members of the original crew say the portrayal of the captain as a "soulless militant" who is arrested and handcuffed by his officers at one point is "farcical and absurd." "K-19" was screened at the 59th Venice Film Festival though it was not part of the competition. Director Kathryn Bigelow, Ford and Irish actor Liam Neeson turned up to promote the film.

Questions

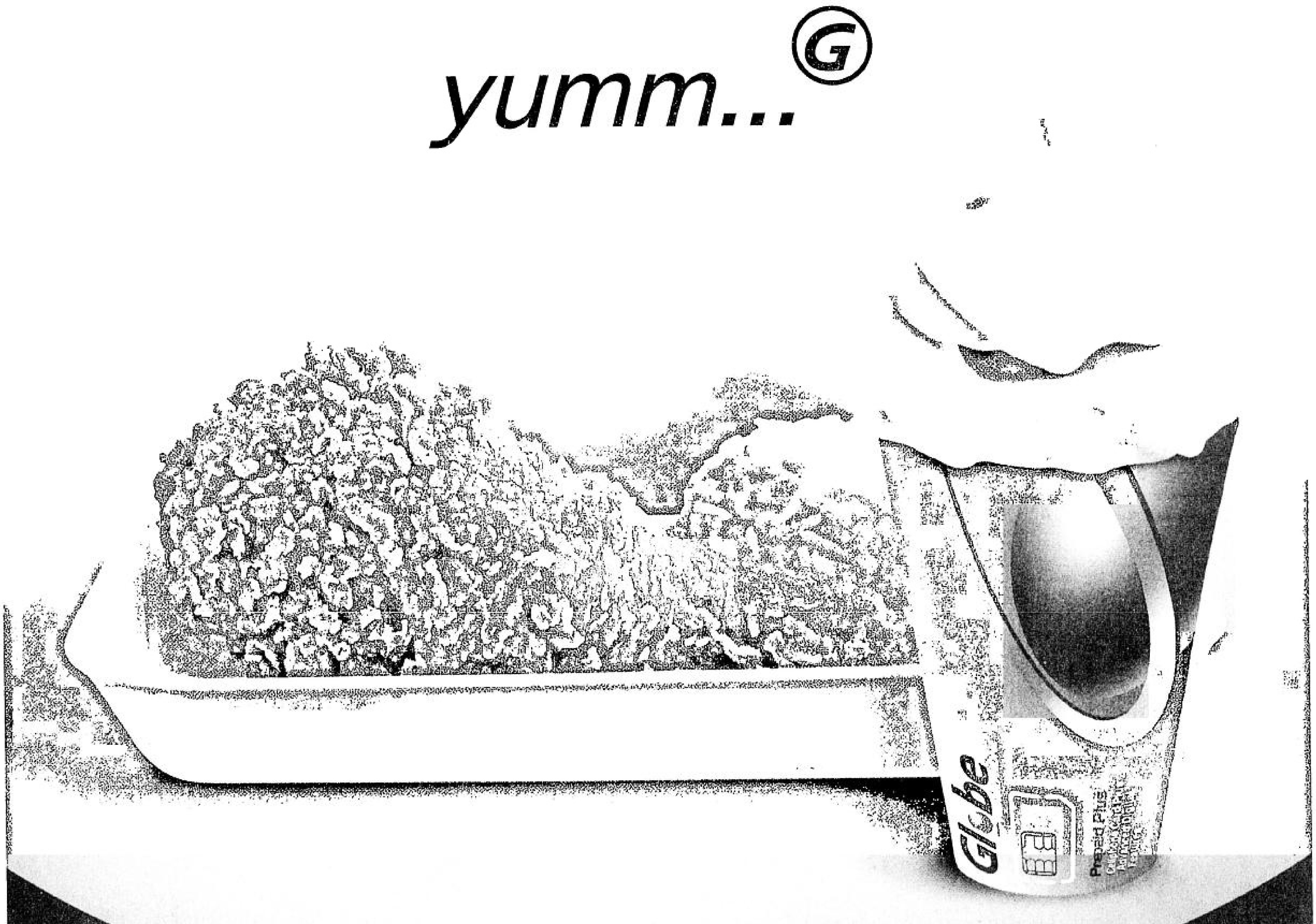
"When we started the film there were some questions among the crew about our motivations and we met with many of the survivors and . . . represented our intention to acknowledge the sacrifice that those men made," Ford told a packed news conference.

"I think the concerns were addressed years ago."

HARRISON/E3



FORD. Heartless taskmaster.



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James Franco gears up for the bigtime

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

THIS week's Q & A:

From Joyce Reyes of San Juan: **'James Franco was, for me, the most exciting part of 'Spider-Man.' He is beautiful, intense and looks eerily like James Dean. What's up next for James? I heard he takes his roles seriously. How does he prepare for them?"**

From Nenita Sudigan of Navotas: **"Does James Franco have a girlfriend? Where can I write him?"**

Well, Joyce, you are not the only one who has noticed Franco's similarities with James Dean. So did the producers of TNT's bio pic, 'James Dean," in which he played the late icon, shown on local cable a few months ago. He was so good in it that James won a Golden Globe, and snagged nominations from the Emmys and the Screen Actors Guild early this year.

English major

The 24-year-old actor went to UCLA as an English major. To overcome his shyness, he dabbled in acting, loved it and left school after his freshman year to study acting intensively at Robert Carnegie's Playhouse West for 15 months.

Soon after, he won a starring role in NBC's teen drama, "Freaks and Geeks," which the critics loved but was canceled after less than a year due to poor ratings. But the show achieved cult status in syndication and James' exposure in it got him good notices and a successful audition for the James Dean TV movie.

He auditioned for the role of Peter Parker but was instead given the role of Harry Osbourne (the Green Goblin's son) because he looked too handsome for Peter Parker's "plain Joe" looks.

Past movies

His past movies that are available in our local video shops: "Deuces Wild" (with Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro and Matt Dillon), "Never Been Kissed" (remember this fun Drew Barrymore comedy?) and "Whatever It Takes," a modern-day remake of Cyrano de Bergerac that stars other teen heartthrobs (before they became popular) like Shane West, Colin Hanks and Kip Pardue.

"Deuces Wild" and "Spider-Man" were released in the US on the same day (May 3) this year, but "Spider-Man" earned 67 times more than "Deuces"!

Yes, Nenita, James Franco has a girlfriend: Marla Sokoloff from the RPN-9 legal drama, "The Practice."

He does take his work seriously. He went the full Method route for his role as James Dean. He lived in isolation for two months to mimic Dean's reclusive tendencies.

He explains, "I have a pretty supportive family. I needed to do it, but it was hard to be emotionally isolated from family, friends and Marla that long."

Male prostitute

Also, for his upcoming movie, "Sonny," to be directed by first-time director Nicolas Cage, where Franco plays a male prostitute, he went out on his own and sought male prostitutes out in New Orleans, and paid them between $50 to $200 to interview them in bars and restaurants to research the role.

Other than Cage's "Sonny," his two upcoming film projects are:

Robert De Niro's "City By the Sea," a gritty police drama set for release anytime now, where James plays the troubled son of good cop De Niro (who personally cast him, alongside Frances McDormand and Anson Mount).

FRANCO. Played James Dean in TV biopic.

True story

And the John Dahl movie, "The Great Raid," a true story about the rescue of American World War II soldiers held captive by Japanese forces in the Philippines (sorry, the scenes are being shot in Australia), starring Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes and our very own Cesar Montano.

Write him: c/o International Creative Management, 8942 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Ca 90211, U.S.A.

(For the gazillions of fans of "Betty La Fea" and "Harry Potter" and their respective stars, thank you for your letters, but we have already featured their bios and addresses in past issues. We suggest you look for past issues, or better yet, don't miss a copy of your favorite broadsheet.)

Sunday treats on Hallmark

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"STRANDED," a retelling of "Swiss Family Robinson," will be shown on The Hallmark Channel on Sunday, Sept. 8 (Part 1) and Monday, Sept. 9 (Part 2).

On Sept. 15, the special presentation is "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire," a Sherlock Holmes mystery. Matt Frewer plays the famous detective, whose nemesis is a South American vampire.

Next, "My Life As a Fairy Tale: Hans Christian Andersen," will be telecast in two parts on Sept. 22 and 23 Andersen wrote scores of well-loved tales, including "The Little Mermaid," "Thumbelina" and "The Emperor's New Clothes."

Capping Hallmark's Sunday treats for September is "Mark Twain's Roughing It," on the life of Samuel Clemens, which will be shown on Sept. 29 (Part 1) and Sept. 30 (Part 2). James Garner plays Samuel Clemens/ Mark Twain.

Two theaters at Star City

The Star City theme park at the CCP Complex has made a success of its Star Theater, with popular Ballet Manila shows like "Belen" and "Can Can."

Now, another new performing venue, the 3,000-seat Aliw Theater, has been opened, with ampitheater-style presentations. "Lion King" will take revelers through the "surround" theater.

Housed in an impressive "mountain," a boat ride transports patrons into a dreamlike jungle setting, where actors in lavish costumes and fabulous masks enact a tale of love, treachery and vindication. Other novel attractions include "The Little Mermaid," "Pirate Ship" and "Flying Carpet."

For its opening salvos, Star City opens with a reprise of "Belen" at Star Theater on Sept. 21, and the dazzling "Can Can" on Oct. 5. There will also be long-running crowd-drawers like "The Mummy," "Grand Carousel" and "Balloon Wheel," *tiangge* stalls, and other pre-holiday treats.

Raymond Red directs TV commercial

Raymond Red, the much-awarded independent filmmaker, has directed an innovative TV commercial for the new cough syrup, Guaifenesin Strepcof.

In the spot, a man enters a bank and a "gunshot-like" sound is heard, terrifying the other people in the bank. The authorities and *uziseros* think a heist is taking place, but find out that the man they think is the bank robber is only—a cougher!

'Eiga Sai 2002'

The "Eiga Sai 2002" Japanese film festival is on its last two days at Cinema 1 of Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Schedule:

Sept. 7, 2 p.m., "Tomorrow": A series of loosely-related vignettes about people carrying on with their daily lives in Nagasaki—one day before the atomic bomb was dropped on that Japanese city.

At 5 p.m., "Nodo Jiman": The story of four people who enter a big singing contest.

At 8 p.m., "Osaka Monogatari": A husband and wife work together as a comedy duo, despite the man's infidelity. When his lover has a baby, he disappears. His 14-year-old daughter looks for him, and discovers what her father is really like.

Sept. 8 at 2 p.m., "Nabbie's Love": Nanako discovers the secret of her grandmother Nabbie's heartrending story of true love, which she's kept hidden for 60 years.

At 5 p.m., "Tomorrow."

At 8 p.m., "Adrenaline Love." When there's an explosion at Yakuza headquarters, a timid nurse and a meek rental car clerk gain possession of a briefcase full of blood-soaked money.

SHARON Cuneta and young friends at Star City.

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New albums from Lotus Eaters and Moonstar88

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

Lotus Eaters
Silent Space

JEREMY Kelly and Peter Coyle must have had a pretty rough lovelife, because it shows in Lotus Eaters' latest album, "Silent Space." Each song is just a variation on self-blame and trashing life and love. But what makes this album enjoyable is its improvised melodies, harmonies and chord changes.

It's kind of irritating at first to hear songs that blame women, but the melodies are so engaging that you end up playing the whole album again.

New angle

"Can Your Kisses Fly" has a new angle on expectations and relationships. "Stay Free" talks about karma and paying for one's sins.

"Lost in the Flow" has a sad, melancholic feel but the lyrics are not apologetic. Instead, they smack of resentment and bitterness.

"Feel It" aims to tug at a girl's heartstrings and sees guys as lonely, sensitive creatures. Anyone who has been dumped can relate to this song.

Even if Lotus Eaters sounded much better before it became a "mainstream" band, you'll enjoy listening to this album because it makes you mad, sad and exuberant all at the same time.

the lotus eaters
silentspace
the lotus eaters

'SILENT SPACE.' Engaging melodies.

Moonstar88
Press To Play

This album advocates being strong, saucy and optimistic without losing your grip on reality. Acel Bisa's wispy voice still has that edge to it, backed up by funky beats. The album is experimental but confident.

"Sulat" is another take on their previous hit "Torete." It still has that sweet and realistic feel. "Sabi Mo" is a spunky pop tune with catchy lyrics and instant recall.

"Sayang" can be a reflective anthem for the youth. It's about the joys and pains of growing up with your *barkada*.

"TimeLess Peace" is mellow and sing-able. It's about seeing the beauty in everything. It indirectly inspires the listener to appreciate the small things in life, because big things come in small packages.

Powerful vocals

"Pasensya Na" has powerful vocals, and emotional lyrics with an edgy sound. It's a cool song about being there when people need you the most.

"More Than That" has aggressive lyrics but Acel pulls it off with her carefree and spunky singing. It's pop with grit and rhyme.

"Tongue-Tied" is syrupy and sweet. It's about not being able to verbalize one's feelings for a loved one. Again, it can be an anthem for girls waiting for their crushes to notice them.

This is a refreshing collection of stripped-down mellow pop tunes. The honest, hopeful songs can lift your spirits on a depressing day, and ease your tension during a stressful week.

Harrison Ford defends . . .

From page E1

Crew saddened

But seven members of the submarine's crew, many of whom have been objecting to the film since they saw the first draft screenplay, sent an open letter to Venice.

"We are surprised and saddened that the Venice Film Festival chose to give 'K-19: The Widowmaker' its European premiere," they said in a letter to the film's producers and cast as well as to the organizers of the festival.

"It is unthinkably painful to us that this film . . . will be considered a reference upon which the new generation of filmgoers including our own children will form ideas about us and our comrades." Scenes depicting the crew as incompetent drunks were left out of the final screenplay.

Bigelow said not all the survivors had complained about the script.

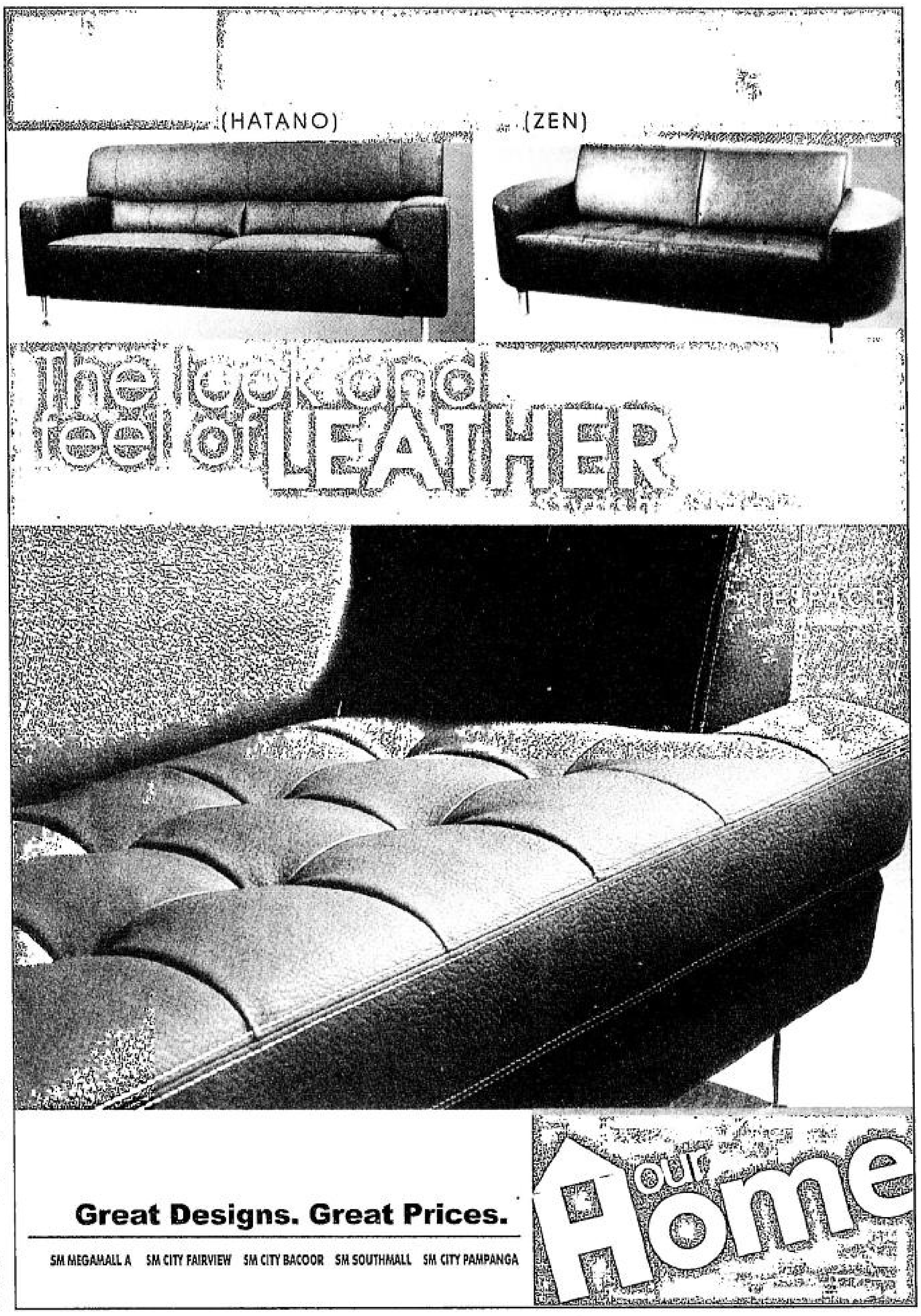
Survivors

"I have spent a lot of time between 1995 and 2000 meeting with survivors while making the script. Many times in my meetings I would find myself embraced by them with tear-stained faces saying you must tell our story," she said.

Neeson said he had only heard positive reports from the survivors, but said the intention had never been to make a documentary.

"There has to be some dramatic license," he said.

Despite the controversy, "K-19" has not been a box office hit, unlike many of Ford's films, including the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" series. Reuters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John Woo opens doors in Hollywood for other innovative Asian filmmakers

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIAN filmmakers have been heartened by the success that Ang Lee, John Woo, Wayne Wang and other pioneers have had in Hollywood. They have opened doors for younger directors, actors and writers from Asia, leading to the authentic "internationalization" of the movie world—filmmaking truly without borders or cultural and racial bias.

WOO (right) with Nicolas Cage and DGA president Martha Coolidge.

John Woo was one of the first to grab Hollywood by the seat of its pants with his rip-roaring, high-flying "action-ballet" extravaganzas.

Action stunners

He first made a name for himself in Hong Kong with action stunners like "A Better Tomorrow," "Hard Boiled" and "Once a Thief." These films enjoyed a cult following not just in the Crown Colony, but also in the west.

Among Woo's early US fans were some American action directors, who marvelled at his "beautifully choreographed ballets of violence."

They spread the word that, in Asia of all places, there was this innovative director who was cheerfully turning the action film genre on its ear. Maybe he could teach his counterparts in Hollywood a thing or two!

Mainstream director

Going from cult hero to mainstream director on the world scene took Woo only a few years, Today, his list of Hollywood productions includes "Hard Target," "Face Off," "Broken Arrow," "Mission Impossible 2" and "Windtalkers."

Woo's success in international films has made people curious about him. What combination of personal and professional attributes has enabled him to pave the way for other Asian filmmakers in Hollywood?

Born in China

He was born in China, and fled with his family to Hong Kong, where they were forced to live on the streets for years. That grim encounter with poverty motivated him to make something of himself, with the help of an American family that sent money to finance his schooling.

The money came in handy, but it paid only for his bare necessities. To assuage his hunger for books that he couldn't afford, Woo went to libraries and bookstores to filch books on philosophy, art and film. (Kids, don't do this at home!)

After he got into Hong Kong's movie industry, Woo was tasked to make the regulation martial-arts or gangster action flick—but found himself taking a different tack in terms of visualization.

Ballroom dancer

Thus were born his signature "flying" action sequences, his "operatic" staging, and his dynamic shot compositions, What accounted for the "different" touch? Woo shares that, in high school, he made extra money as a ballroom dancer and tango instructor!

In addition, when he's conceptualizing an action scene, he uses music to set the tone and tempo for his shots and actor movements. He likes cutting action shots to romantic or even classical music, to give them a certain sense of "distance" that raises his action extravaganzas above the usual flail and flurry.

After "Windtalkers," Woo reveals that he's next filming "Man of Destiny," a film about the Irish and the Chinese who built a railroad in the United States more than a hundred years ago. It will star Nicolas Cage and Chow Yun-Fat.

Woo is excited about the project because it shows how the east and the west can live and work together, a theme that's close to his heart. Fact is, his own successful career in Hollywood is solid proof that it *can* work—wonderfully well.

Mourning with other Valentino fans

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

THE HALL was filling up with interesting Valentino fans. The majority were gays so oohs and aahs were high-pitched and extended.

There was constant kissing on the cheeks and the like. Most of the guys, okay gays, remained slim. They wore white jackets and colored pants that contrasted with their shirts, which were left open to (ironically) exhibit some manly hair on the chest.

Some over-painted women who must have fantasized they were Valentino's former lovers sat with great drama, probably expecting Valentino to come alive again and wrap their once supple bodies in his macho arms.

Vintage hat and veil

But it was a younger lady in the legendary black dress of mourning complete with a vintage hat and a veil who really caught our attention. She was by far the most dramatic of the three other "ladies in black," although a black woman in a white dress provided an interesting contrast. Yes, there was some grandstanding going on.

At exactly 12:10 p.m., the rites began. They were rather undramatic since the host, Tyler Cassity, was informal in his demeanor. They only took a dramatic turn when Ken Rimo and Mitchell performed the Valentino songs with great style.

Of course, the duo received extended applause from the awe-struck audience. We were certainly grateful because the pair gave us the original vintage flavor and ambience of Valentino's Grand,Old Hollywood era.

Unidentified author

The dramatic Lady In Black for this ceremony was actually an unidentified author. She is soon coming out with a book about the original Lady In Black who came to Valentino's wake to mourn him, as well as the many others who came dressed in the same dramatic manner years after the star's death.

The most famous of them all was Dietrick Le May. Pola Negri, the publicity-hungry silent film actress, claimed she was the original lady but that is dubious, according to this author.

A fine but short documentary, "Rudolph In Love," with appropriately stirring music was warmly received by the crowd. We all quickly traveled back in time and thus understood Valentino's cinematic impact on the audience 80 years ago.

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Work enables and empowers, 2

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Here are more insights on work, based on my own experience:

Don't be bossy when you're not yet the boss... In other words, don't be a pain in the neck of the people you work with. This is the surest way for you to turn your work into an abomination.

Tricky

And this is a tricky thing, Clara. Because it's entirely possible for you to be bossy without being conscious of it. You can actually psyche yourself up to thinking that you just want the work done as efficiently and as fast as you can, and you are totally oblivious to the fact that you have become this overbearing ogre everybody secretly detests and avoids like the plague. You don't want to be like that, do you?

It's quite easy to find out if you've been transformed into an ogre. If you dread the thought of going to work, waking up every sunrise with a heavy feeling, practically dragging yourself out of bed, and going through your morning ritual like some death row convict being led to the chamber—that's it. You're an ogre nobody wants to work with. Because bossiness actually hurts the bossy person more than those he bosses around.

Team player

So, learn to be a good follower, a team player—somebody others consider fun to work with. This doesn't mean you have to be less efficient or compromise the quality of your work. It only means you should derive pleasure from your work and not miss out on the fullness of your achievements.

...But, most especially, when you already are. Know what a good boss is? A good boss is not a boss—he is a leader. And a good leader does not bark out orders— he inspires and affirms so people may strive for excellence. He leads not by screaming what needs to be done, but by showing how best to do it. He instills respect not by fear and coercion, but through friendship and shared experience.

This doesn't mean you need to fraternize with your subordinates to the point that you become one of them—because you may lose their respect. Maintain a professional distance, but also make it known to everybody that you have an ear to listen to their concerns, a penchant for fun that enables you to enjoy their company, and a sense of fairness that commands both affection and deference.

I remember Loca Productions. I don't know if you were too young then to now recall those days, but I wasn't the boss there. I was the friend. And I luxuriated in that role. I enjoyed it to the hilt. I took pleasure in listening to Tasing unload the travails of her simple life as much as in presenting a scoop about the complications in the lives of movie stars.

Forgotten

In fact, as I now look back, all those show biz scandals and controversies were soon discarded and forgotten—but the strands of shared experience continue to bind me to the people with whom I have partaken of some very special moments.

You're a girl, you're not one of the boys. Don't laugh, my dear Clara. This is something that most career girls in a hurry to ascend the corporate ladder forget and later regret.

Here's a secret: The only way for women to succeed in a man's world is, precisely, to be a woman. The more you try to be like men, the more likely that they'll clobber you. The only way to beat men at their own game is to use your womanhood to disarm them. Remember this, Clara—women are every man's weakness!

Besides, no matter what you do, my darling, you'll never be a man. No amount of power dressing, playing golf, smoking a cigar and going through the whole caboodle of supposedly masculine activities can make you put one over men. At best, you'll only be a second-rate, trying-hard copycat!

What is a woman? A woman is respected by man. He does not use or abuse her, he looks up to—not down on—her. She has been created by God to help man—because man is unhappy without her.

Remember your Genesis? The Lord saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so He made woman. In other words, God designed woman to complement and support man—not compete and battle with him.

Excellence defies gender

But, of course, my dear child, you have to realize that being a woman doesn't mean that you should lower your capacity for excellence, because that is not within the definition of womanhood. In fact, you should excel and *expand* the limits of your capacity for achievement. After all, excellence defies gender. And achievement largely depends on what's between your ears—not your legs.

A workplace is home. Your workmates are family. Smell the flowers with them. Celebrate birthdays and Christmases with them. Go out on picnics together. Hunt for bargains together. Collect seashells on the seashore together. Visit them when they're ill. Cheer them up when they're down. Listen to their heartaches. And to their joys, too. In short, share a life.

Do take note that home is where love reigns. Family is where love dwells. For instance, when there is a break in the peace, deal with it as you would with family. Don't allow hurt feelings to fester. Don't prolong the agony of a grudge or any kind of resentment. Don't nurture a quarrel—even if you're winning it.

Be humble, patient and loving. Be quick as much to forgive as to ask for forgiveness when it's you who have wronged another person.

In other words, Clara, always choose the path of caring. This will not only make your work and your workplace a source of gladness, it will also enrich your life beyond what material prosperity can ever give you.

Make work work for you. Don't be enslaved by it. Don't make it the be-all and end-all of your existence—over and above other priorities that, you will eventually discover, are so much more important. Like health, family, and love.

Pressures

I now regret, my dear Clara, how I took my health for granted. I kept the unholiest hours, and the pressures of my work stressed me out so much that I took solace in eating (a lot), drinking (a lot), and smoking (a lot, too.) Result: I had a bad heart that required a double bypass.

I am overweight, diabetic, hypertensive—and suffer from renal breakdown that makes me undergo dialysis thrice a week. I did abuse this mean machine so much, didn't I?

And, yes, dearest Clara, I also neglected our family. I justified it by saying that everything I did was for them, anyway—so they should even be grateful for the time that I wasn't there for them.

Now, we have a pretty interesting home, haven't we? And I can only look up to heaven and ask God to somehow help me gather all the pieces of the jigsaw that this family has become, and put them all back together again according to His revised plan for me and for us.

Piece of paper

Another thing: I had this fairytale idea of love and marriage. I looked at love through rose-colored lenses, and at a marriage contract as a piece of paper. I didn't invest enough on them. I thought they'd be there forever. And even if they didn't, it wouldn't really matter.

How so very wrong I was. They did matter. And their loss left me numb and empty deep inside. It's a pity that only now do I realize that, had I poured the same amount of time and effort, dedication and tenacity, resilience and sense of sacrifice on my love and marriage as I did on my work, I'd have been a fuller, happier person now.

Not that I'm not happy—but the fullness and happiness I now have is not of my creation, it comes from Him who makes use of both the good and the bad for the unfolding of His plan.

(For your comments, insights, questions and suggestions, badids2000@yahoo.com)

Uncovering Matt Damon's identity

By Edmund L. Sicam

THIS is the conclusion of our Q and A with Matt Damon, whom we interviewed in Taipei, along with other Asian journalists, during the promo for "The Bourne Identity":

Last week, we wrote that Odessa Whitmire, Matt's girlfriend, used to be the production assistant of Matt's friend, Ben Affleck, based on information we gathered from UIP officials. However, when we reviewed our tape of the interview, the actor told our group that Odessa was the production assistant of Billy Bob Thornton, whom he met while shooting "All the Pretty Horses."

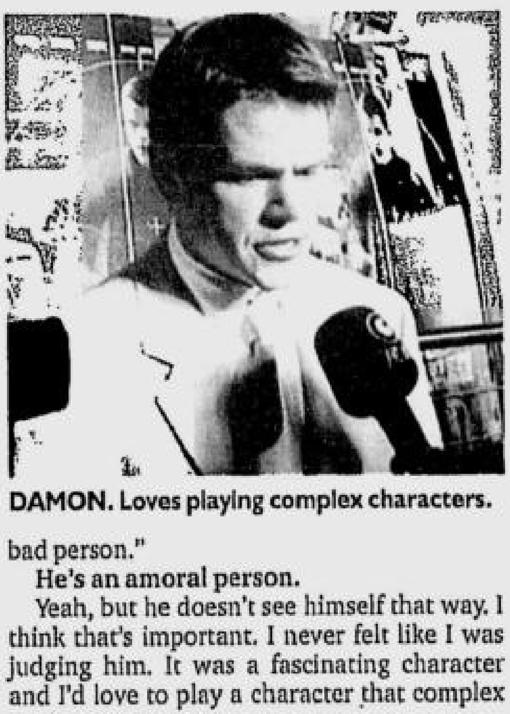
Here is the rest of our Q and A:

Good reviews

Do you prefer doing a movie that gets good reviews but bombs at the box office to a hit that gets panned by the critics?

It depends on how I feel about the movie. For instance, "All the Pretty Horses," the long version which was never released and was cut to ribbons by the studio, I was proud of. The movie got panned and bombed at the box office. (Laughter) But I loved it. It was an enormous experience in my life and I don't regret making that movie.

You played an unsympathetic character in "The Talented Mr. Ripley." Would you accept another unsympathetic role again?



DAMON. Loves playing complex characters.

Yeah, I would. There's a line that Ripley says in the movie: "Nobody sees himself as a bad person."

He's an amoral person.

Yeah, but he doesn't see himself that way. I think that's important. I never felt like I was judging him. It was a fascinating character and I'd love to play a character that complex again.

Would you do a movie like "Basic Instinct" and shoot a bedroom scene with a sexy actress?

(Laughs) If it was well-written, yeah. I'm never genre-specific. I'll do anything if I feel the script is good.

UNCOVERING /E6

Spiritual grace in Cabangon's 'Huwag Mangamba'

By Noelani Torre

NOEL Cabangon isn't exactly a name that pops to mind when religious music is mentioned, but, after "Huwag Mangamba: Mga Awit ng Pagtatagpo," maybe it will be.

Jesuit songs

Released by the Jesuit Ministry and the Jesuit Communications Foundation Inc., this album is a collection of—that's right—Jesuit songs. This is "contemporary Filipino retreat music," according to its creators, but its universal themes would be appropriate for any Christian event.

This is not the first collection of its kind. Several years ago, the Jesuits released "Huwag Mangamba's" precursor, "Narito Ako," and a lot of its songs are still included in the former. What makes this newer album different is the slant that main performer Cabangon brings to the rendering.

We expected ourselves to nod off after the first few tracks, this being retreat music and us not exactly being on retreat mode, but surprisingly enough, we didn't. We did feel a wee bit drowsy by track 10 or so, to be sure, but we were generally able to remain alert all throughout the 15 songs.

Title track

The title track, "Huwag Mangamba" is a fair representation of the whole album as it articulates the common fear that most Christians (or humans, for that matter) face—fear itself—of life, the future, etc.

The refrain goes: *"H'wag mangamba, h'wag mabalisa, h'wag mabahala. Sa ligalig, hindi kita padadakma. Manalig ka, magtiwala at mapayapa. Pag-ibig Kong kalasag mo'y sapat na."* The song was written and composed by Manoling V. Francisco, SJ who also authored one other song in the collection.

Cabangon and his guitar are joined here by Cooky Chua, vocalist of the band Color It Red. The tone for the entire album is set by the first song "Panginoon, Aking Tanglaw," which opens with chords from Cabangon's guitar and introduces us to a softer singing style from the folk singer. This spiritual, religious music is certainly a break from the usual for the musician, who is known for his progressive songs that feature working men and *mga taong kalye* and that tackle social ills like poverty, prostitution and violence. (Last year, Jesuit Communications released his first solo album, "Pasakalye," which features these songs.)

Still, this doesn't mean that he is less effective in this new milieu. In fact, he sounds very sincere all throughout the CD. His smooth, cool singing voice makes for good listening, as does his expert guitar playing.

Vocalists

Other accompanying vocalists include Karina Balajadia, whose singing lends an almost operatic quality to some of the songs; and the Bukas-Palad Music Ministry. Fruto Ll. Ramirez, SJ composed most of the songs which were more often than not based on psalms and prayers.

SPIRITUAL/E7

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2. Write your name, address, contact number and signature at the back of your tape receipt. Your Mercury Drug tape receipt will serve as entry coupon. Only one entry per receipt is allowed.
3. Drop entry in designated drop boxes located in any Mercury Drug self-serve store nationwide.
4. Raffle draw will be on October 31, 2002 at the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
5. Winners can claim their prizes at the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Winners must bring their registered notice and valid ID when getting their prizes. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days after raffle. Prizes for provincial winners will be forwarded to the local Nestlé office. Provincial winners will be notified where to claim the prizes. Unclaimed prizes after the 60-day period shall be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. With prior approval of BFAD.
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7. Deadline for dropping of entries is on September 30, 2002.
8. See posters and leaflets for details.

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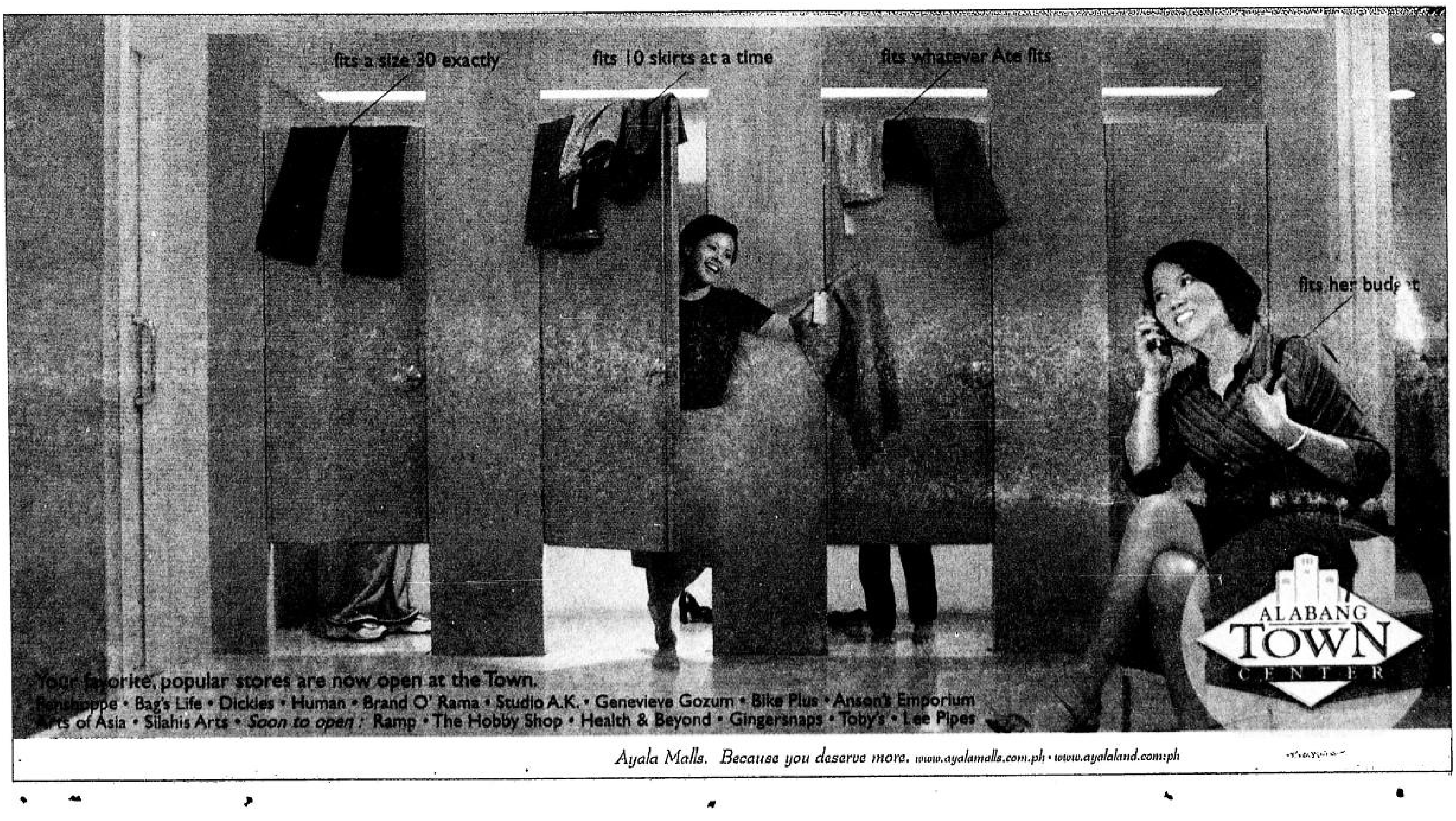

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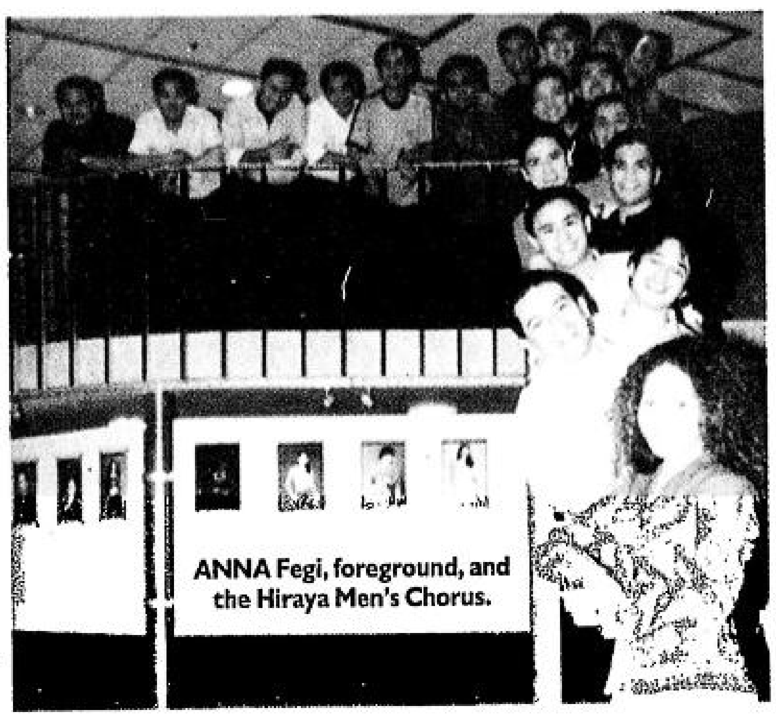
The return of the venue with perfect acoustics



ANNA Fegi, foreground, and the Hiraya Men's Chorus.

By Bibsy M. Carballo

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Centrally located

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The group behind the acoustics was Bolt, Beranek and Newman, the same team behind the acoustics of the Sydney Opera House.

Warmth

Andrea Veneracion, choirmaster of the Madrigals, recalls that they held their first formal concert there in 1963. "We always feel we are back home wherever we perform at the theater," she has stated. "It has a warmth we do not feel in other concert venues."

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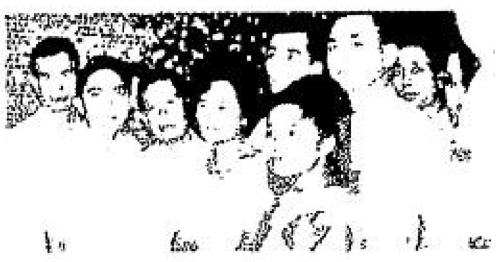

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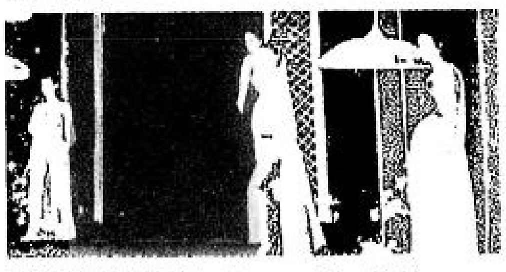

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Per DTI-NCR permit # 1234 series of 2002

sunday INQUIRER magazine

Uncovering . . .

From page E4

Loss of privacy

As a celebrity, how do you deal with loss of privacy?

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How did you and Ben Affleck deal with Hollywood?

We handled it about the same way. We've both been working pretty steadily the last few years, taking the best movies available. Sometimes people say, "You and Ben have taken different roles." That's actually not true at all.

A film like "All the Pret Horses," for instance. Ben wanted to do that movie but Billy Bob (Thornton) thought Ben looked too old for the part. So I did it, which is ironic, because I'm older than Ben. (Matt turns 32 next month while Ben celebrated his 30th birthday last month.) But Ben and I have the same taste in movies.

You're being called "the thinking woman's leading man." How do you react to that?

(After a short pause) Ben would laugh at that. (Laughter) Does that mean Ben is the unthinking woman's...?

Cerebral person

They see you as a cerebral person. Are you?

To a certain extent. I don't see myself differently from anybody else. I think that, by and large, most of the people in my life are pretty cerebral

Sure, but you did Harvard. Not everybody gets into Harvard.

Getting in, in an odd way, is harder than actually going to school.

How come?

Because you would think that the school would be more demanding, but in fact, getting into the school is the hard part.

UNCOVERING /E7

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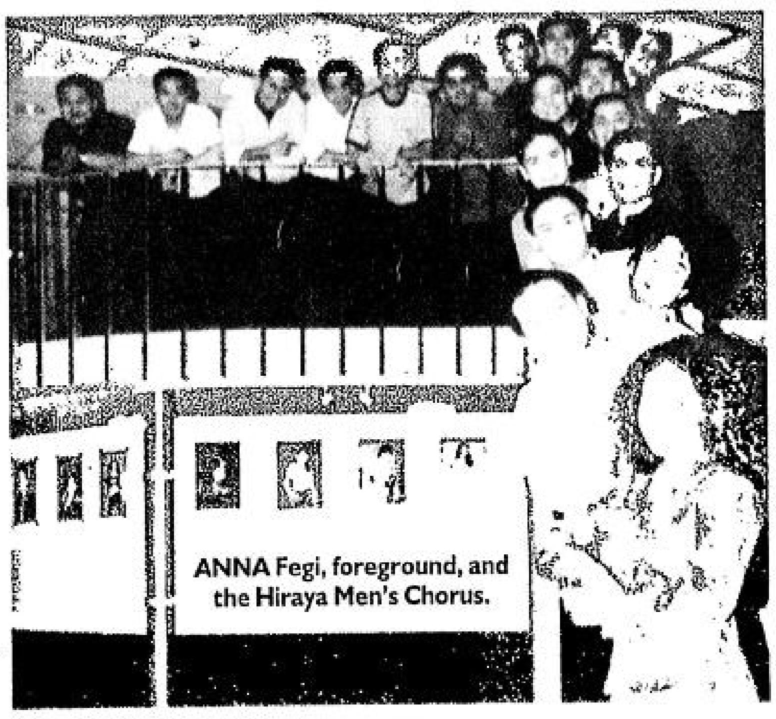
The return of the venue with perfect acoustics



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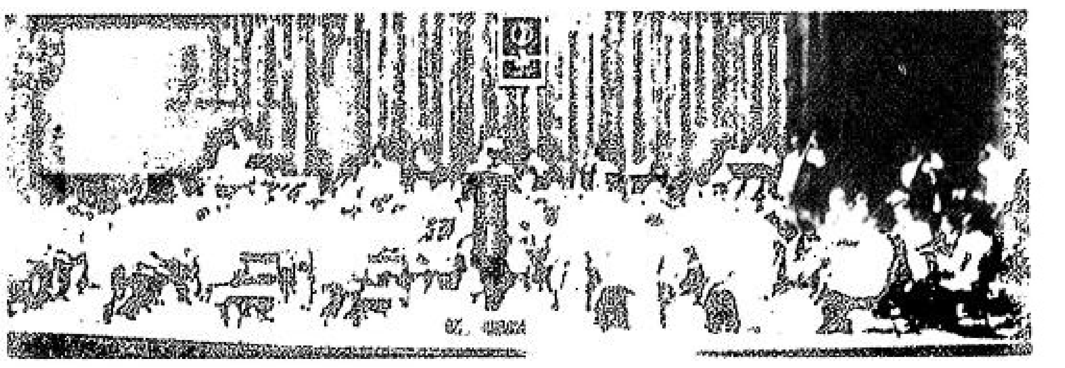

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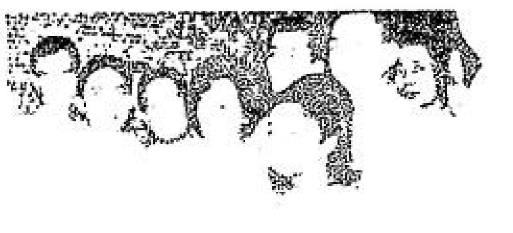

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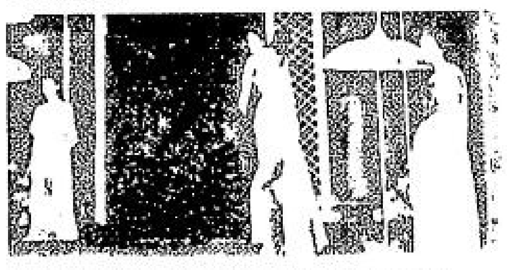

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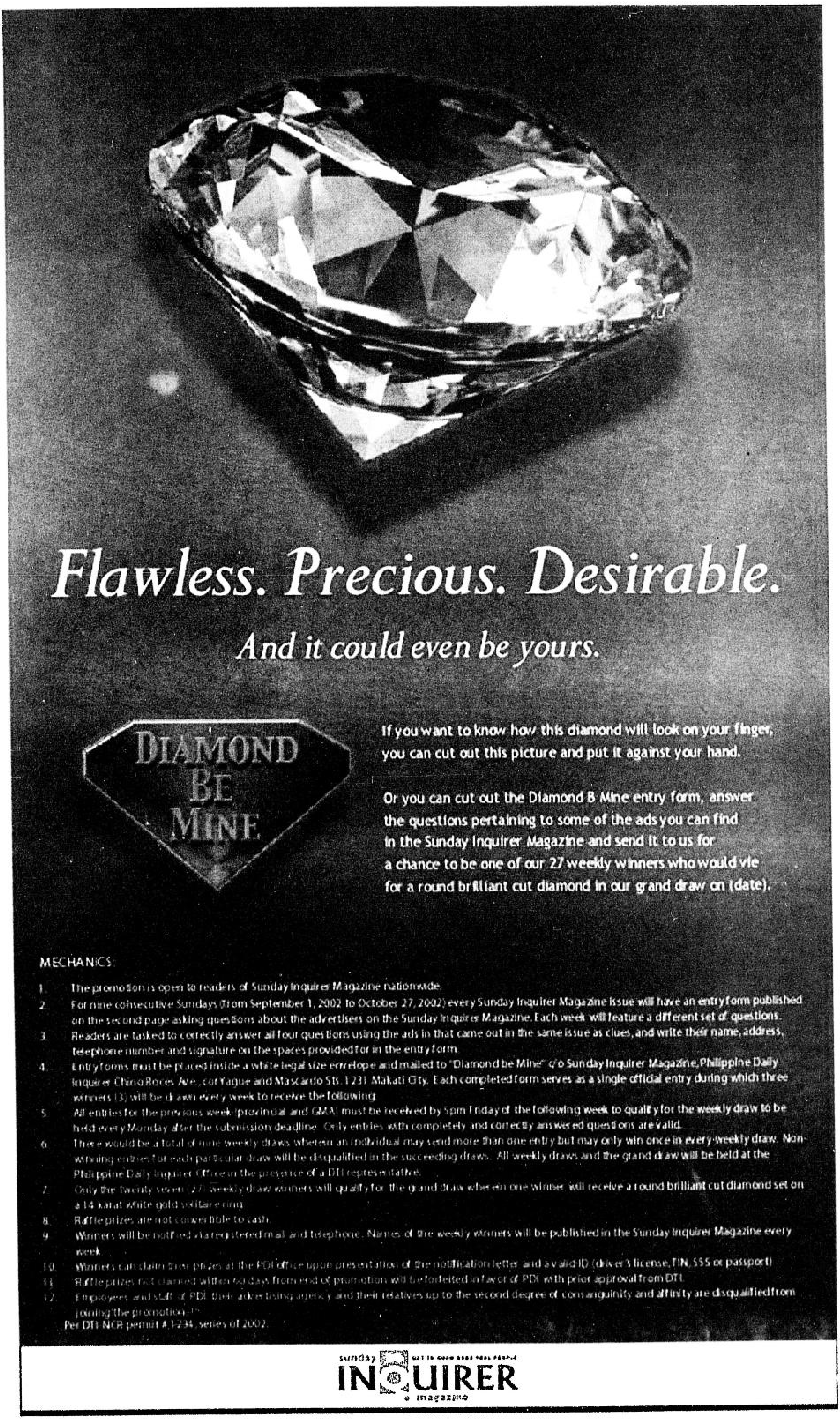

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UNCOVERING /E7

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Searching for a national film archive

THE MASTER negative of "Itim" is kept at the British Film Institute.

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

(Continuation)

AUDIO-VISUAL archiving in the Philippines is undertaken by various sectors:

1. Government institutions.
2. Private, industry-based institutions.
3. Private collectors and film suppliers.

Government institutions

The government institutions involved in some form of audiovisual archiving are the Philippine Information Agency, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the University of the Philippines Film Center.

The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), which is in charge of the media productions of the administration, has a Motion Picture Division that operates a film laboratory, maintains a film collection, and leads in various audiovisual archiving activities.

These archiving activities range from workshops on cataloguing, preservation, archive management, and other training programs, to actual restoration of specific films. These workshops and restoration programs are done in cooperation with other institutions, including the active support of ASEAN and the National Film and Sound Archive in Australia.

The holdings of the PIA library include the films and videos it has produced for the government, and copies of the feature films it has restored.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines is a quasi-government institution that programs various artistic activities. It has a Film Division that assumes some form of archival function, aside from organizing activities like film screenings in the country and abroad, workshops, and an alternative film and video festival.

Few titles

The Center's holdings, which are stored in the infamous Manila Film Center and the Folk Arts Center, include the ECP (Experimental Cinema of the Philippines) collection; the Lino Brocka collection which includes a few titles of the artist's own works as well as films by other filmmakers; films from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation and the Ateneo de Manila University; a few titles from the Russian and Chinese Embassies; and films deposited by various companies, like AM Films, Lea Productions, and SinePilipino.

The Center was also involved in the retrieval, reprinting and subtitling project in connection with the 1998 Centennial program and the first Filipino Film Festival at the Lincoln Center.

Ten films resulted from the effort, including "Tunay na Ina" (Real Mother, 1939), "Anak Dalita" (Child of Misery, 1956), and "Insiang" (1976). It has also restored and reprinted films by Lino Brocka in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency.

Moreover, the Center has programmed the printing of master negatives that are deposited in the British Film Institute, like Mike de Leon's first feature film, "Itim" (Rites of May, 1976), Eddie Romero's "Ganito Kami Noon... Paano Kayo Ngayon?" (This Is How It Was . . . How Is It Today?, 1976), and Lino Brocka's "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" (You Are Weighed but Found Wanting, 1974).

Project

At present, the CCP is building a collection of the works of the country's National Artists for Film. In addition, there is also the collection of videos in connection with a project on the history of Philippine broadcasting.

It should be noted that the CCP Library and the Cultural Promotions Division also house an extensive collection of video and audio on Philippine arts and cultures. This collection includes in-house documentation of productions staged at the Center, and coverages of events and festivals around the country.

The University of the Philippines Film Center is run by the state university in Quezon City. Organizationally, it is under the College of Mass Communications; but, it is virtually independent of this college. Virginia Moreno, the founder of the Film Center and a retired professor of UP, still exerts influence in running her creation.

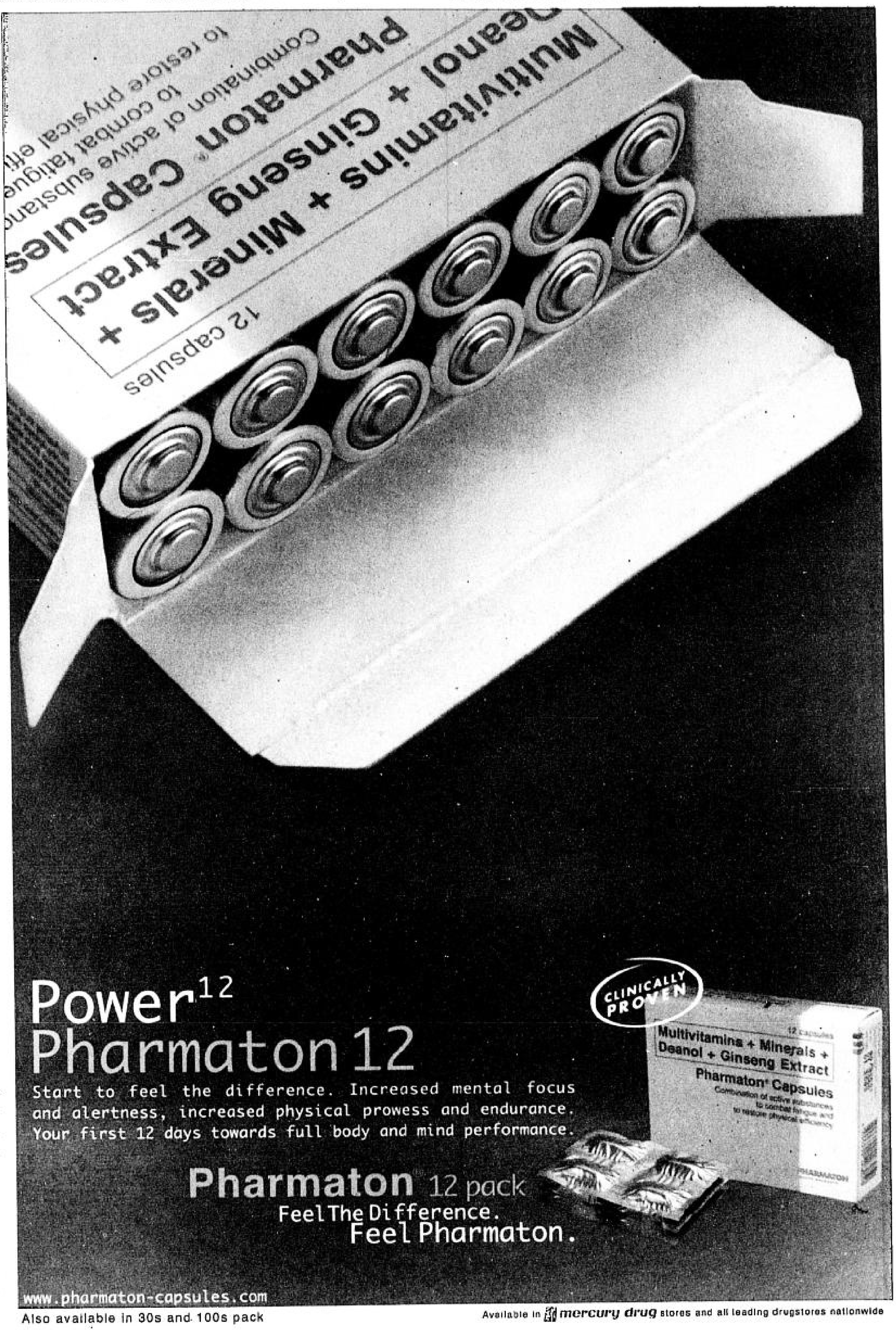
Screenings

A major portion of the operational budget of the Center comes from the film screenings in its 1,000-seat theater, and its equipment acquisition is sponsored by foreign sources like the Unesco.

Aside from foreign films, both features and documentaries, donated by the former embassy of the USSR and the embassy of Canada, the Center holds a collection of Filipino films.

This local collection includes films by Ishmael Bernal, mostly positive prints (except for one which is a master negative), the master negatives of films produced by Bancom Audiovision (except for one which is a positive print), and a motley collection of 35mm and 16mm other local films.

In addition, the Center has a collection of super-8mm films produced by independent filmmakers. Aside from these archival holdings, the Center has a collection of local and foreign films on videotape and some foreign films on laser discs which are used for its training workshops. *(To be concluded)*



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Uncovering . . .

From page E6

How would you define a good script?

Technically speaking, you can break it down and see that it's well-crafted. More importantly, there's the intangible aspect of whether it moves you emotionally. If the script gets under your skin, it really doesn't matter how well it's structured.

"Good Will Hunting is a good example of that. We took a lot of knocks from screenwriters when we were going around trying to set it up. They told us, "You guys are terrible with structure but boy, the dialogue is really good."

Dialogue

How did you and Ben come up with the dialogue?

We'd use a tape recorder and we would just start improvising the scenes. We had the characters and wanted the characters to power the story. We would basically yell at each other. We played all the characters in the movie and when we found stuff that we liked, we'd write it all down. In the the actual writing of the script, very little time was spent sitting down at the computer.

Spiritual . . .

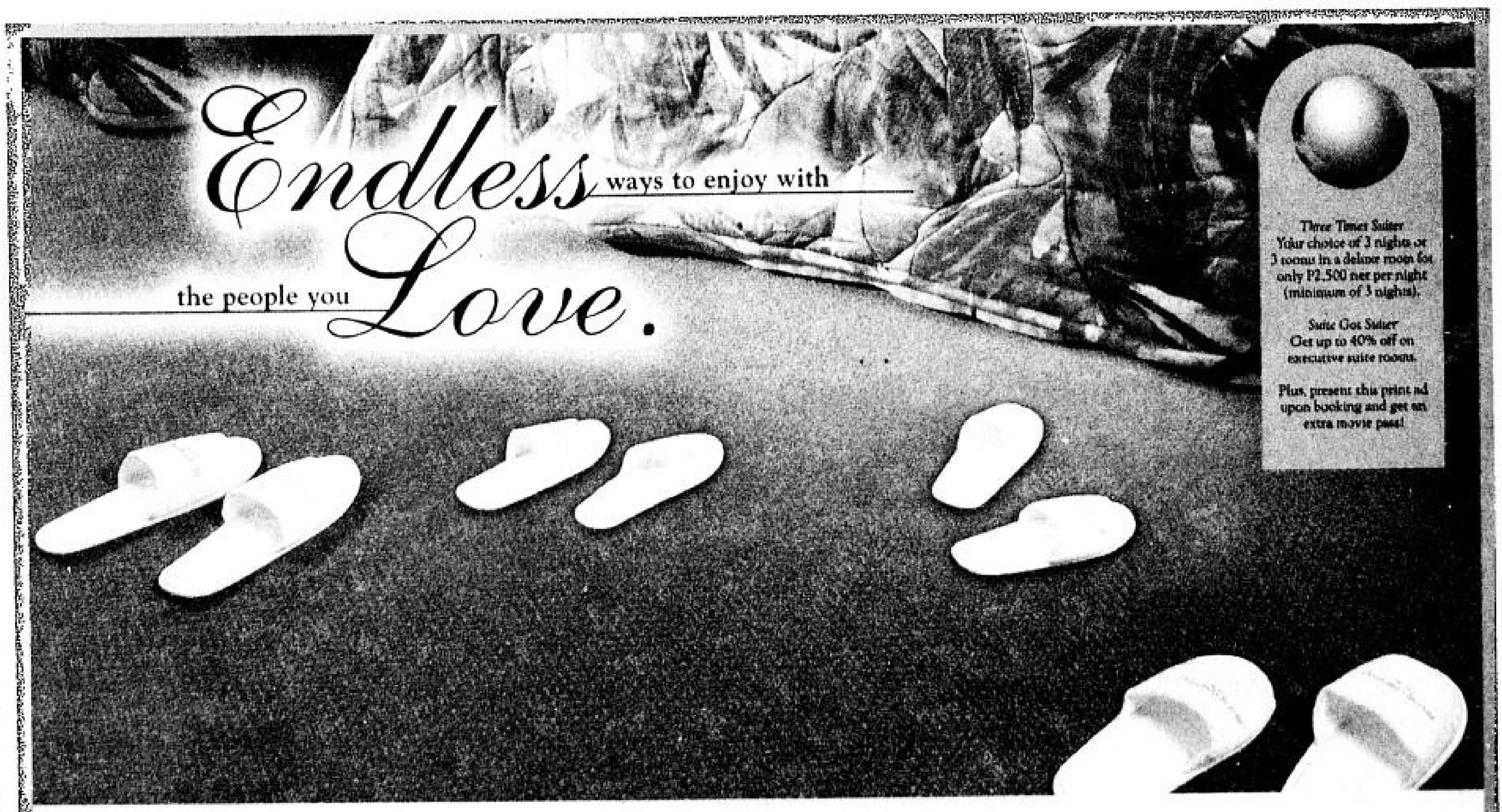
From page E5

Other composers and songwriters are Danilo B. Isidro, SJ, Nemy S. Que, SJ, Rene T. Oliveros, SJ, George Gozum, Rene San Andres, Eduardo P Hontiveros, SJ, Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, Tony Perez, Ferdinando L. Macalinao, SJ, and Arnel dC. Aquino, SJ.

Our favorite song in the collection would probably be "Ito Ang Bagong Araw" mainly because it sounds different from the others. It is sung *a capella*, for one, and it has a faster, jazzy beat. It was refreshing to hear.

Listeners would probably be most familiar with the last song, "Paghahandog," as it is frequently sung in church—though, perhaps, if one were a good Catholic, like a friend of ours who was able to sing along with several tracks, one would be familiar with most of the songs compiled here.

In any case, this is a collection that will certainly appeal not only to those who are going on a retreat, but also to those who are looking for the grace of spirituality outside the usual conventions of church and mass.



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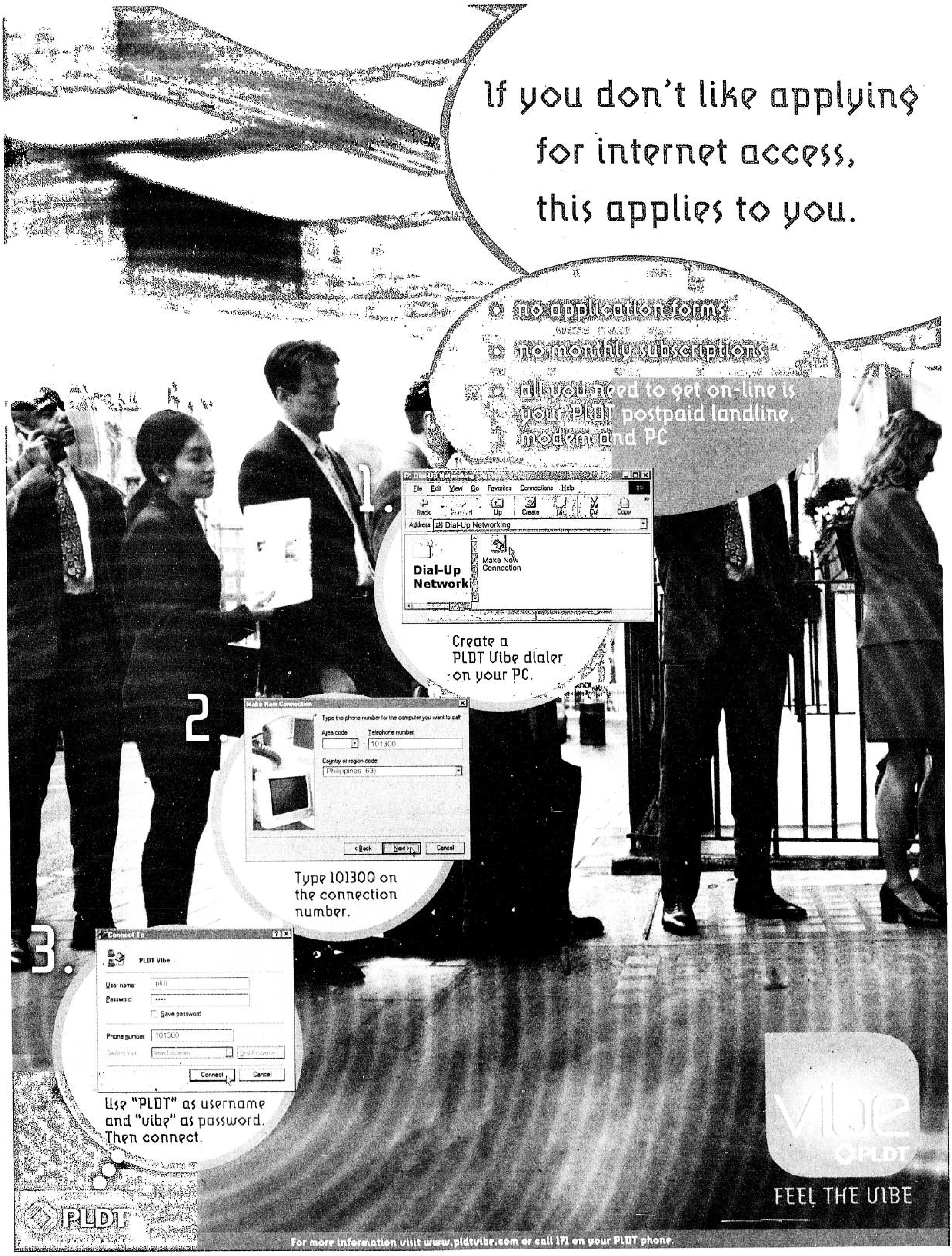

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SATURDAY*Special*

CCP announces major plans on 33rd anniversary

By Michele T. Logarta

THE ADMINISTRATION of the Cultural Center of the Philippines plans to transform the 70-hectare CCP complex into an income-generating world-class center for arts, culture, tourism and entertainment.

Initiative

Nestor O. Jardin, CCP president, announced this and other initiatives as the center prepared to celebrate its 33rd anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Jardin is focusing on the development of the CCP Complex, a project which was hampered for many years by a legal dispute over the ownership of the land.

In the past year, an eight-point agenda was the focus of CCP efforts; it will continue to be the focus in the next three years. The agenda includes, aside from the CCP Complex Development, the Arts for the People Program, Artists' Support Programs, Artistic Diplomacy Program, Public Relations and Promotions, Streamlining of Operations, Income Generation, and Transparency and Accountability.

Flagship program

The Arts for the People Program, the CCP's flagship program, promotes the arts for national development and moral transformation. It includes national outreach and community projects in depressed areas, livelihood projects for artists and cultural workers, and productions that promote Filipino values.

"We want artistic programs that value artistic excellence and use the arts as a tool for conscientization, social awareness and enhancement of our cultural art forms," CCP Artistic Director Fernando C. Josef said. "That means putting up productions that touch on ordinary people's problems and the possible solutions to those problems."

Another project under the Arts for the People Program is the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra Music Scholarship Program. Last month the CCP launched the program in cooperation with the Pasay City government and chose 15 talented students to be PPO Music Scholars.

Jardin and Josef say that the Outreach Program is one of the major achievements of the CCP.

Wider exposure

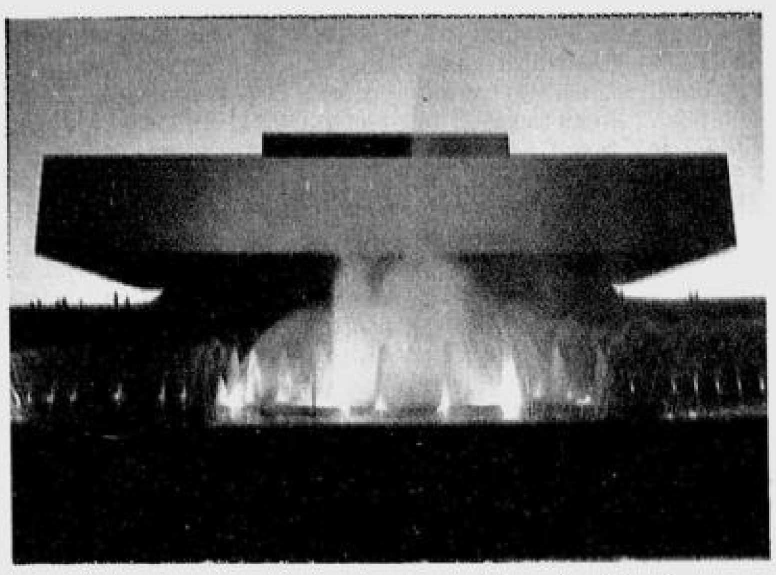
The program gives Filipino artists wider exposure and recognition through national and international tour programs, and arts and production management workshops and seminars.

The CCP has professionalized the performing arts through its Artists Residency Program.

Jardin said the CCP supported many of the country's world-class performing groups. They include the PPO, Ballet Philippines, Philippine Ballet Theater, the Bayanihan National Folk Dance Company, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Dance Group and the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

"With CCP support, we were able not only to help them build up their repertoire and their talent but also supported them in promoting Philippine art and culture abroad," Jardin said.

Summing up the objectives of the CCP program, Josef said: "The CCP should be able to do its part in improving the quality of life of our people through arts and culture programs. The CCP program should transform people's lives for the better."



THE CULTURAL Center promotes the arts for national development and moral transformation.

Sophia Loren shines in Venice as Italian mamma

By Jane Barrett

VENICE—Sophia Loren, who made a career as an on-screen temptress, played the good Italian mamma in Venice on Friday last week, proudly promoting her son's first film—which also happened to be her 100th.

The 67-year-old star celebrated her century with "Between Strangers," written and directed by "my best friend and my son" Edoardo Ponti.

Very emotional

"It was very emotional when I saw him shooting behind the camera," Italy's most famous actress told reporters, who welcomed her with warm applause.

"I thought, 'I brought him to life and here is my best friend giving me beautiful ideas as to how I should be seen.' I trust him completely," Loren mused while her 29-year-old son studied his nails and giggled to himself.

Despite Loren's enthusiasm for the project, "Between Strangers" received a poor reception at its first press screenings, with whistles resounding around the huge hall.

Publicity machine

But a star-studded cast including British actor Pete Postlethwaite, French hero Gerard Depardieu and Oscar-winning American actress Mira Sorvino should keep the publicity machine churning.

The film, which is showing out of competition at the 59th Venice Film Festival, is the story of three women battling with the effect their fathers have had on their lives.

Loren's character, Olivia, is haunted by having been forced to give up an illegitimate daughter,

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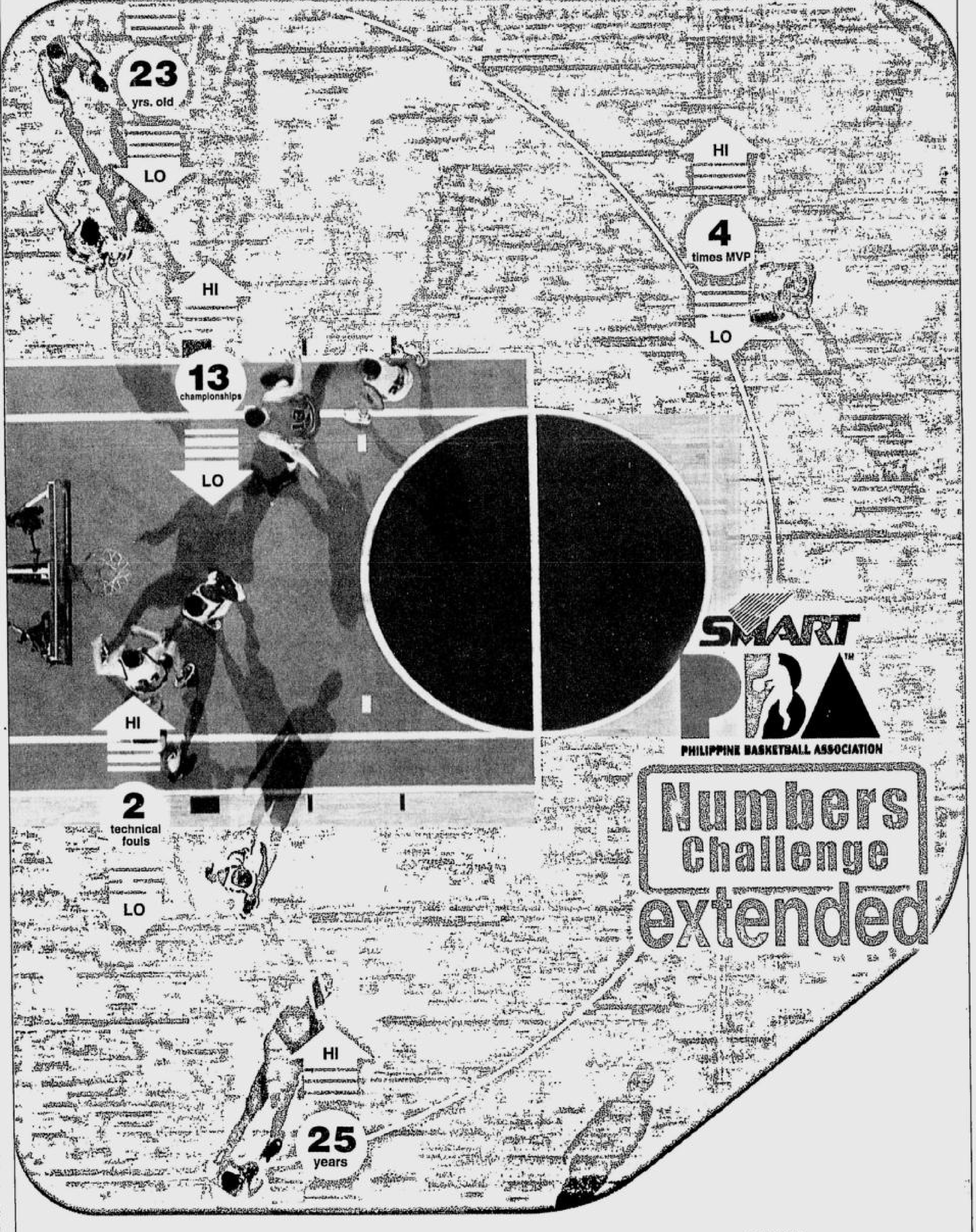

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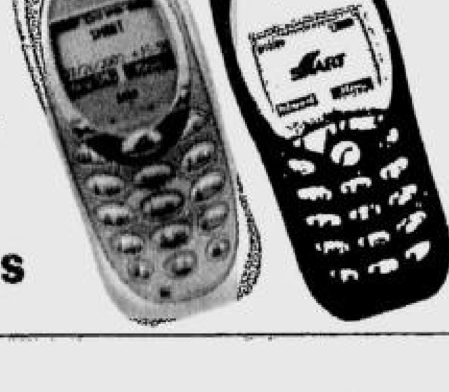

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Whole country playing detective in Nida Blanca case

By Norma Japitana

EVER since Nida Blanca was murdered last Nov. 7, the police have been looking for her killer. What makes it hard for them is the fact that the whole country has turned detective.

Theory

The theory of "the butler did it!" in most American whodunits has turn into "the husband did it!"

It seems easy to pin the crime on Nida's husband, Rod Lauren Strunk. But his friends, like Chito Ponce Enrile, ask: "What was his motive? He was better off with Nida alive."

The other side has its points, too. He did not even look inside the car when he saw it parked in the Atlanta building. When Nida's body was brought to the morgue, Rod stayed away. It was Nestor de Villa and close friend Caridad Sanchez who went with the body to the military lab where it was brought.

Caridad told us: "I was still numb up to that point, but when I saw her feet dirty and knowing how fastidious she was, I just broke down."

Church

On the second day of Nida's wake, I went with Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz to pray in the church at White Plains. Nida's only daughter, Kaye Torres, was still in the US and it was only Inay, her 86-year-old mother, and Rod who greeted people and accepted their condolences.

Another evening, I went with Rico J. Puno. This time, Kaye had already arrived from the States. Rod Strunk was in one corner, hardly talking. When the TV camera crews arrived, he put on a cowboy hat, and this was his undoing. People who never liked him whispered about the audacity of the attire. This could be the first time people started to think of him as a suspect.

Happy person

The month before Nida's death, we had our usual once-a-month lunch with Caridad and Perla Bautista, to keep track of each other and to share industry gossip. We had been doing this for the past two decades. Nida was always a happy person. As usual, she would order something for Rod that she could bring home. That image of Nida keeps coming back to me.

So I was one of those who could not imagine Rod doing it, since "Nida would know. A woman always has this gut-feel about her man."

That morning of Nov. 7, I got an early text from Willie Revillame about Nida's death. Unbelieving at first, I showed it to Rey Pacheco, who called GMA-7 to check and confirmed the sad news. I wanted to rush to Atlanta, but my first grandson, JV, was born. In the afternoon, looking at the beautiful baby, the irony of life and death hit me hard: the birth of a beloved grandson and the death of a very dear friend all in one day!

"Justice For Nida" started in earnest after Nida's funeral. There was such an uproar about the death of this beloved celebrity that the police were getting embarrassed by the questions, especially with media joining in the fray.

Incredulous

Then entered Philip Medel. He confessed that he killed Nida Blanca and named Rod Strunk as his accomplice. People were stunned and incredulous. But not for long. The next instant, he came back screaming that he was tortured by the police to admit the crime.

Then, he exonerated Rod Strunk as well, who was at the NBI compound and raised his hands up like a messiah.

Rod was running out of funds. But he left for the US to be with his dying mother..

Call

Last month, a group of people seeking "Justice for Nida" met to make sure that the murderer of Nida Blanca would not go scot free. I got the call from Manay Ichu Maceda last Aug. 8 to meet at Edsa Shangri-La.

Generals Gualberto and Verzosa briefed us on the case. They have more witnesses now: Elena dela Paz, once reticent to talk, has given her statement. The loyal Elena, who has been with Nida for 45 years, was with her when Nida and I met to discuss her book.

But the main reason for the meeting was to raise funds for the Justice for Nida campaign. Dolphy gave P150,000, JV Ejercito promised P1 million for any information, and others who helped were former President Joseph Estrada with P100,000, and Bong Revilla and Tony Tuviera.

Represented

Kaye Torres is being represented by lawyer Harriet Demetriou, who is working pro bono. We all felt good having the former justice with our group, and she was the one who taught us how to go about forming the foundation that will be headed by Kaye Torres and Marichu Maceda.

The second meeting of the group was held at Sampaguita Pictures. We learned from Sen. Tito Sotto that there was a time Nida sought his help with the drug dependence of her husband. But that was more than 10 years ago, according to the senator, and when he talked with Nida later, she told him that everything was okay.

More and more evidence is coming in. The NBI is working overtime on the Nida case, With the group behind "Justice for Nida" now working with Kaye and Marichu, there is a big chance that we will soon see the sullen face of the murderer of Nida Blanca.

BLANCA. Much-loved celebrity and friend.

Sophocles' plays remain pertinent

By Leia Torre

"THE COMPLETE Plays of Sophocles" contains seven of the Greek tragedian's surviving plays. Sophocles was born in Colonus on 495 B.C., at the height of Athens' greatest age. His wealthy father provided him with the benefit of learning music and poetry through private lessons. He was also an athlete.

First prize

His career as a dramatist commenced when he won first prize in a festival held every year at the Theater of Dionysus, in which new plays were presented. He defeated Aeschylus, who was considered the leading tragedian of the time. He won first place 18 more times, and wrote more than 120 plays.

As playwright, Sophocles is credited for introducing the concept of the third actor. He also reduced the parts given to the chorus.

He was what one could call a Renaissance man of the ancient world, for he was wealthy, handsome, intelligent, talented, and popular.

Most popular

His plays in this book are "Oedipus the King," "Antigone," "Electra," "Ajax," "Trachinian Women," "Philoctetes," and "Oedipus at Colonus." Of these works, "Oedipus the King" has been considered by many authorities as the best. Certainly it is the most popular one. Its story centers on Oedipus, an unfortunate individual who is fated to kill his father, marry his mother, then proceed to have children with her.

The plot is an intricate one, and although the reader knows what's in store for the poor hero, Oedipus himself is in the dark until the very end. His nobility is evident when he chooses to punish himself for doing something that he could not have avoided.

One would have to remind oneself of the context of the play, and to accept the fact that during Sophocles' time, the gods were omnipotent—even if they sometimes acted unfairly.

Oedipus can again be found in "Oedipus at Colonus," in which he goes to Colonus to die, a blind exile and beggar. This play, Sophocles' last, contains less action and more spirituality than his previous works.

King's edict

"Antigone" focuses on the strength and honor of its title character when she defies the king's edict and buries her dishonored brother's body. Another play that concentrates on a woman is "Electra," on the daughter of the doomed chieftain Agamemnon. She never forgets that her mother murdered her father, and craves vengeance by praying that her brother survives to kill their mother. Although the morals of Electra would be controversial by modern standards, she is meant to be shown as a heroine, never giving in to the pressure brought to bear upon her.

The attitudes and beliefs in these plays differ a lot from how people see things now. But Sophocles made his characters embody those virtues that may be considered pertinent and universal to this day—courage, honor, loyalty, and unconditional love.

Sohpia Loren shines in Venice . . .

From page F1

born before she met and married a now wheelchair-bound athlete.

"(Loren) is not only a great movie star but also a mum—the woman who woke me up in the morning to go to school. She has a big heart and a big soul and I wanted the story to express that," Ponti said.

Leaving the movie star looks in the changing room, Loren's face was washed out and etched with wrinkles for the role.

"We had to show all her pains and sorrows in her face. It took three hours every morning," the auburn-haired actress said, adding that she did not want to be locked into an "older woman" typecast.

Right story

"You reach a certain age and it's difficult to find the right story for your personality and years so you have to be very selective," Loren said, hours before being presented with a lifetime achievement award by Italian film journalists.

"Edoardo's story was very close to my nature, which is why I chose to do it," she added.

That's not to say the project was free of artistic tensions.

"We had discussions on set as to what we had to do, but that is normal between actors and directors," Loren said, before being inundated with autograph seekers.

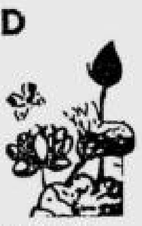
"He's only 29 so he has a long way to go," she added.

To which Ponti replied, "Always a mum, you see!"

Reuters

Dealing with sexual desire

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW does one deal with sexual desire? Can a relationship with the Supreme Being satisfy all of a person's inner cravings, including those of a sexual nature?

Today, we feature an excerpt from Jagad Guru's booklet "Marriage: Great Expectations" that deals with this issue:

Question: Do sexual experiences really satisfy us sexually?

Stimulation

Jagad Guru: They don't. The more you have, the more you want. The more you try to satisfy your sexual desire through sexual stimulation, the less satisfied you are.

This is the reality. You may not like it, but this is the way it is. Intellectually or theoretically, it makes sense that the more sex you have, the more satisfied you will be. But in reality, that's just not the situation.

The situation is that the more you try to satisfy the sexual organs, the less satisfied they are. The more you feed them, the greater their appetite becomes. To be cooled down sexually, the scientific method is not to continually pour gasoline onto that fire. Instead, the way to cool it down is to have less. The less you have, the less you need.

But what about sexual energy, where do you direct it?

You have learn how to redirect that energy. We're not talking about suppression of sexual desire, we're talking about redirection. The sexual energy needs to be redirected into physical and intellectual work. And a person needs to connect these with his attempt to please God or serve God in some practical manner. But ultimately, that's just a temporary thing. That's not satisfaction.

Spiritual union

Real sexual satisfaction will come when you realize your transcendental relationship with God. In other words, the desire for physical union in this world is really a perverted manifestation of your innermost desire for spiritual union with God.

"Sexual" has a negative connotation in the material dimension. But in fact, it is really a perverted manifestation of your natural longing for the perfect conjugal relationship with the perfect Beloved.

And it is not something that is to be taken lightly. You're desiring the perfect satisfaction—union with the perfect person. Union with God is really the proper direction for that urge.

It is a long-term process. How this is done is a great science and it can be taught to you if you want to learn it.

Relationships

Develop your love for God. Achieve union with God and learn how to live in this world so that you're pleasing to Him. At the same time, have relationships with other people who are in harmony with his overall reality-where you're not expecting other people to be God and where you're not demanding of them more than what they can give you.

In summary, sexual desires are simply manifestations of our innate desire to have union with the perfect person. And that perfect person is the Supreme Lord. Making believe that others are our true beloved or that we ourselves are the perfect partners for others is pure fantasy that will end in frustration. So don't play God, instead love God. This is real happiness and perfection.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 7 - SEPT 13

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	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Smart Ka Na Ba? 7:30 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Mary d' Potter 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 To be Announced 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	5:30 Dragon Ball Z 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster *Pepeng Agimat/Kuryente/Bianong Bulag* 11:00 Master Showman	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 World Basketball Championship 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Wrongfully Accused*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game2 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office	5:30 Bewitched 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Extreme Close Up *Wynona Judd* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E!True Hollywood Story 9:00 Dynasty 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	7:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Startrek III The Search for Spock* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6.00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Match TV 9.00 Sunday's Big Event World Basketball Championship	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva's Hot Hits	6:00 Travel Time 7.00 Exposed 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Street 10:30 Twilight Zone	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Specials 8.00 Rank *Sitcoms We Secretly Love* 9:00 Revealed W/ Jules Asner 10.00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	4:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Fashion TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8.00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9.00 GMA's Best *3 Men and a Baby* 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7.00 Worlds Most Amazing Videos 8.00 World Basketball Championship 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & The City	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 DAR 9.00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Greatest Fights 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7.00 New York Special 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11.00 Wild On *Spain*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11.00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7.30 Kool on Kam 8.30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7.00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7.00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9.00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 US Open Tennis	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8.00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *"A" List*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6.30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8.30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9.30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7.30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8.00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Sin Ti 6.30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 US Open Tennis	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 S.A.T.S.U. 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 Baywatch Hawaii 9:00 Combat Mission 10:00 News Central 10.30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10.30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7.00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Jamaica*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4.00 Value Vision 5:00 Fox News 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8.30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7.00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8.30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Daboy en Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate w/ Mare and Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7.00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 US Open Tennis	6:00 Carita de Angel 8.00 PBA Games 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:30 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10.30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Ups 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Bermuda triangle*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7.00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balital 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Ready Txt Go 7:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 US Open Tennis	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 PBA Provincial Game 9.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire 10:00 Bilyaran Na 11:00 IBC News	6:00 Jenny Jones 7:00 Samurai X 7:30 News Central Primetime 8:00 X-Men Evolution 8:30 The Chronicle 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Special *Diana* 10:30 David Letterman 12:00 Wild On *Tropics*

Official Launch of BEL'AIR PARIS Philippines · 8th September 2002

Our Chairman's Message

I am very happy and grateful to have all of you come to the opening ceremony of Bel'Air Philippines. The Official Launch would not have been possible without the hard work of many people. My biggest thanks goes to Ms Lee Xiang Yin, who has put in so much time and effort to pave the way to Bel'Air Philippines. I also wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Caridad Labe and also Ms Rachel Labe, our associates in Philippines, who have given their best co-operation and support to Bel'Air.

I believe that there is a very big future for Bel'Air, and I have every confidence that Bel'Air will succeed. Philippines is such a huge and beautiful country and the people are warm and friendly and are in touch with the world. Therefore, the potential for Bel'Air in the Philippines is boundless and limitless.

Bel'Air strives to bring to the people of the Philippines a world enterprise. A business that has already reached many parts of the world. We wish to benefit our Filipino friends by bringing to them Bel'Air products for a fresher environment, with cleaner and healthier air. In this process, we can improve the health and the well being of Bel'Air users in the Philippines.

Finally, it is my wish that our Filipino associates will take our products and the Bel'Air business to all parts of the Philippines. I believe that with our combined strength and determination, we will be able to achieve all possibilities; to bring better health, wealth and income opportunities here and around the world.
Thank you.

Mr Huang Shu Li
Chairman of Sathelyne International Group Ltd

CLIP Chairman's Message

We warmly congratulate our business associate Sathelyne International Group on the occasion of Official Opening and Launching of Bel'Air Manila Stock Centre under Shiang Series Philippines Corp.

We are happy for our robust and close joint co-operation with Sathelyne International which diffuse all over the world Bel'Air Aromatheraphy.

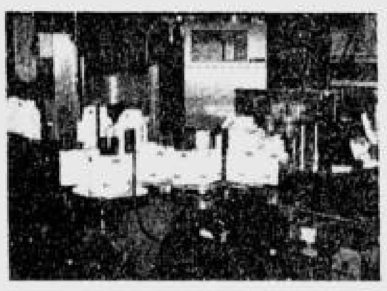
The Sathelyne International products are made, elaborated, developed, produced and controlled by CLIP in France, partner of Sathelyne International since many years.

Mr Guy Mulsant
Chairman of the Board (CLIP France)

CLIP is happy of its joint venture with Sathelyne International in expanding market around the world, and proud to permit Sathelyne International developing its policy that goes a long way towards the well being of its customers.

We apologize most sincerely for our absence and wish to have the pleasure to visit you as soon as possible in Manila.

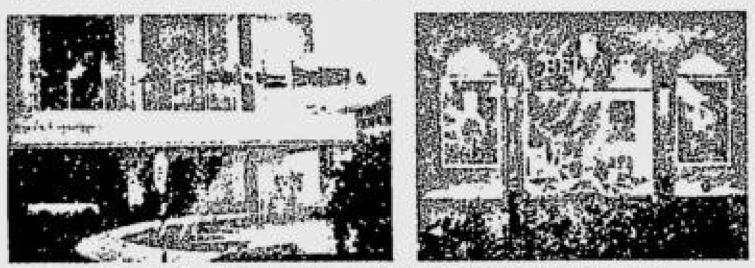
Yours faithfully.



Labelling facilities in France factory

Philippines *Taiwan* *Hong Kong* *Singapore* *Malaysia* *Indonesia* *Thailand* *Korea* *Macau* *Japan*

Shiang Series Philippines Corporation



Manila Stock Centre is located within Pacific Star Building

Shiang Series Philippines Corporation is proud to represent Sathelyne International Group in the Philippines to introduce the wonderful Bel'Air products. Our Chairman Mr Huang will grace the opening ceremony at our new stock center at Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat, 1200 Makati City. We will be launching Bel'Air Philippines with celebration of Fiesta Manila Gala Evening at Manila Hotel, with our Filipino associates and friends, joined by Bel'Air members from around the world, to promote the concept of ***"Cleaner Air for People Who Care"***.

Threats of the Environment

Rapid industrialization has resulted in the daily emission of toxic gases and together with exhaust from motor vehicles and other pollutants like bacteria and dust, have posed a serious problem of air pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency of America has reported that Indoor Air Pollution can be 10 times worse than outdoor air. Indoor Air Pollution has posed harmful threat to our health, causing rise in illnesses such as asthma, sinusitis, hypersensitive dermatitis and the deterioration of the immune system. Beside the environmental changes, our working and living lifestyles are adversely affected by rise in our living costs, resulting in great work pressure and stress. More people are experiencing emotional depression and psychological problems.

Solution with Bel'Air Products

Our company uses the latest aroma bio-technology to blend the essence of natural plant extract with our proprietary formulation called Botanicool. This formulated essential oil is diffused through catalytic combustion with our proprietary catalytic burner to provide a revolutionary breakthrough in air management, aromatherapy and health care promotion benefits. The many benefits include sterilizing and removing the air of pollutants for a healthier and fresher living environment; purifying the air by eliminating bacteria, odour and smoke; improving breathing function by alleviating asthma, flu, sinusitis and other airborne illnesses; relaxing the mind by relieving pressure and maintaining state of serenity.

Company Profile of Sathelyne International Group

Sathelyne International Group (Sathelyne) was founded by Chairman Mr Huang Shu Li. In year 2000, Sathelyne entered into a joint venture with one of the leading companies in France in plant essential oil manufacturing, CLIP SA. Our products are manufactured in France with assured quality and environmental safety standards by two international awards ISO 9002 and ISO 14001 respectively.

Currently, Sathelyne has established a global distribution business network in 11 countries namely, Taiwan, Hongkong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Macau, Brunei, Thailand, Korea, Japan and the Philippines. More countries like USA and Australia are set to join the present expanding network.

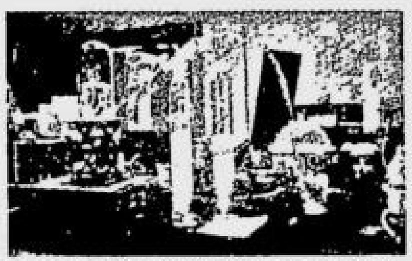
With its borderless international linked compensation plan, it opened a whole new business opportunities for distributors to build their borderless business network globally. The winning strategy to globalize the distribution network is only made possible with fusion of manufacturing and marketing as one organization. To be the leader in any product line, it is imperative to have the fundamental winning factors like product quality assurance, sufficient stock supply, price stability by cutting off parallel importers and proprietary marketing rights. Sathelyne is set to be the leader!

Bel'Air Bio-Tech Research Center

In year 2000, Sathelyne and Institute of Biochemistry of Yang Ming University of Taiwan, entered into an co-operation to set up Bel'Air Bio-Tech Research Center. The center is headed by Professor Tsai Ying Chich, head of institute of biochemistry of National Yang Ming University. This co-operation aims to have on-going research and development (R & D) works for safety and effectiveness of Bel'Air aromatic essential oils based on scientific studies.

Prof. Tsai and our Chairman Mr Huang

Aroma biotechnology encompasses research into all aroma related technology and applications, including the production of essential oil, identification and extraction of aromatic substances that meet the center's objectives. These R & D works took a major leap over other conventional aromatherapy brands by researching into mutagenecity tests of our essential oils before and more importantly, after catalytic combustion when we inhale the end products. Through the use of updated technology to find the medical functions of different plant essences and with documented data research findings, Sathelyne is set to hold proprietary patent rights of blends and will propel sales to greater heights.



Updated technology to produce world class products.

To date, the center has made breakthroughs in blending new products like Ginseng, Green Tea, Green Bamboo, Hinoki, Lotus, Basilic essential oils for better health promotion. With the center's close affiliation with the medical based National Yang Ming University, more medicinal value products, through long history of Chinese traditional knowledge of herbal healing, will be formulated and promoted for alternative healing.

The center is working towards next century of product excellence through medically based R & D works and lifts Bel'Air aroma bio-technology from conventional aromatherapy and air purifier to become the leader in air management, aromatherapy and health care promotion.

Business Opportunities

With more and more people moving towards holistic healing and alternative medicine, Bel'Air bio-tech aromatherapy products are set to meet new demand of consumers, the ready market. The near to mid term market will see more people paying attention to having clean, fresh and therapeutic air in our homes and living spaces. This perception shift will come as it has already happened to having to pay for clean water. Something our forefathers have not done before, they drank from the well until the ground water got polluted. In this light, clean air has become a commodity.

The prestigious Regal Dragon crystal diffuser

Shiang Series Philippines Corporation is glad to offer each and everyone in the Philippines an opportunity to become a distributor of this wonderful product that has helped tens of thousands people worldwide. Please find out more how to get started in this best opportunity in a huge and expanding global market. Your network link locally and outside the Philippines is your best asset! Visit our stock center or log on to our website.
Contact information: Telephone 02-8307778.
Website: belair-paris-ph.com. Please come and join our happy Bel'Air family!

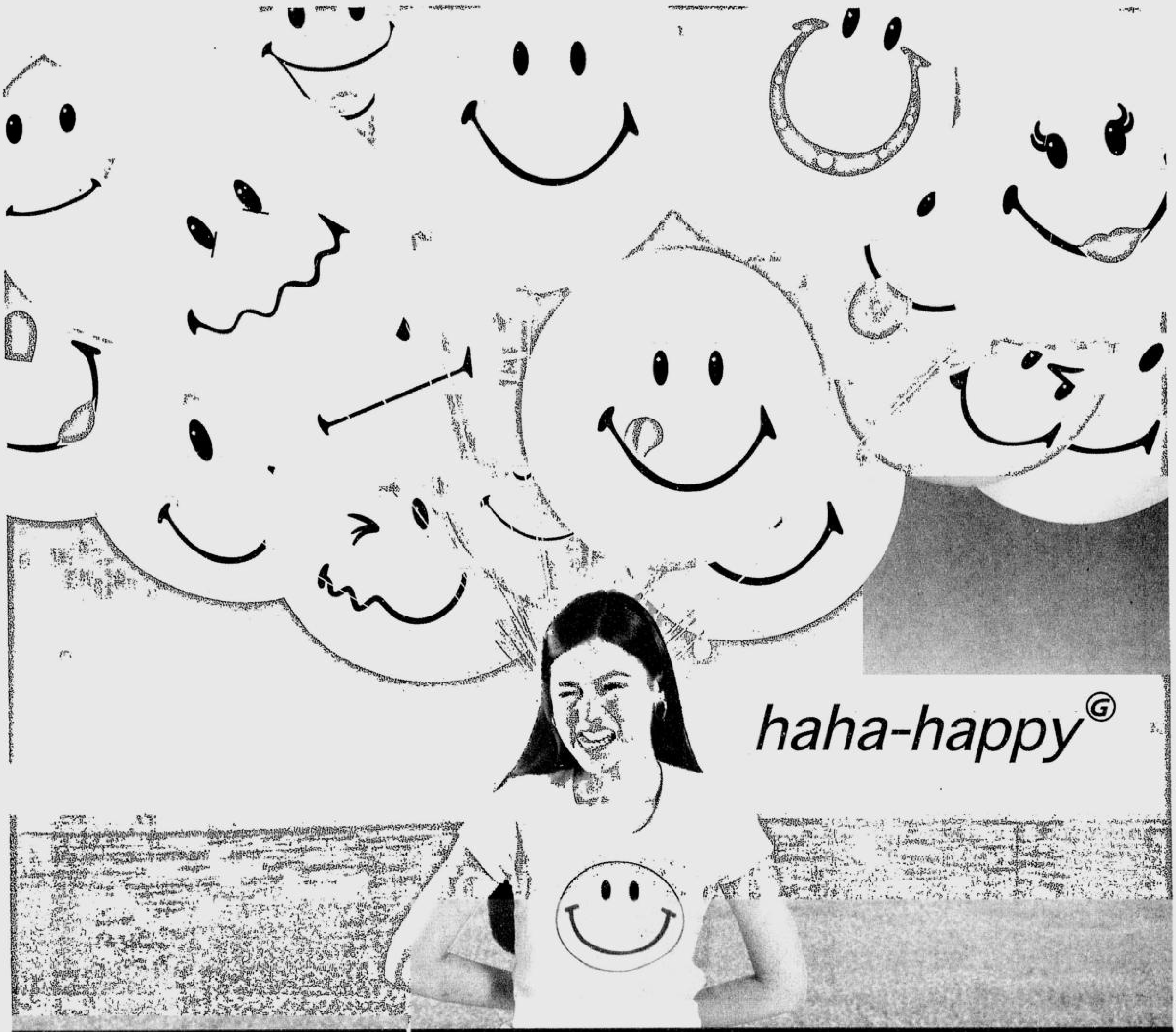
Bel'Air Paris

Award presentation gala evening in Singapore.

Thousands of associates attending award presentation in Taiwan.

One of our regular training sessions in Malaysia.

ADVT.



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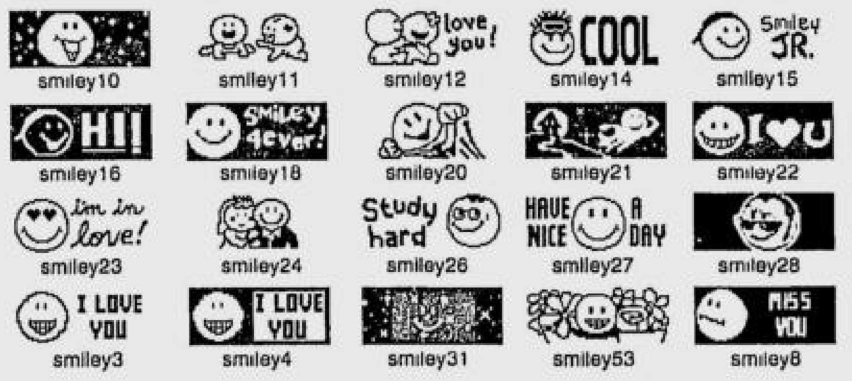
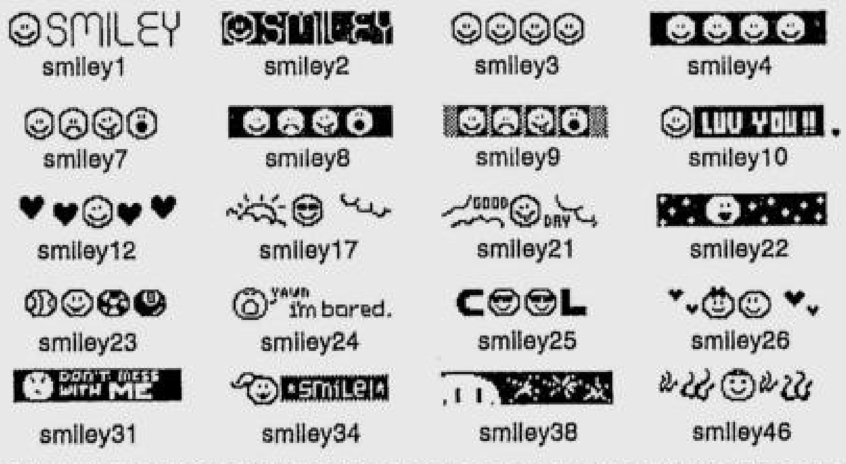

smiley10
love you!
smiley11
smiley12
COOL
smiley14
Smiley JR.
smiley15
HI!
smiley16
Smiley 4ever!
smiley18
smiley20
smiley21
I ♥ U
smiley22
I'm in love!
smiley23
smiley24
Study hard
smiley26
HAVE A NICE DAY
smiley27
smiley28
I LOVE YOU
smiley3
I LOVE YOU
smiley4
smiley31
smiley53
MISS YOU
smiley8

ICONS


SMILEY
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SMILEY
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smiley4
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smiley9
LUV YOU!!
smiley10
smiley12
smiley17
GOOD DAY
smiley21
smiley22
smiley23
yawn I'm bored.
smiley24
COOL
smiley25
smiley26
DON'T MESS WITH ME
smiley31
SMILE
smiley34
smiley38
smiley46

RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
GET YOUR FREAK ON	geturfre	MISSY MISDEMEANOR ELLIOT
MORE THAN A WOMAN	morethan	AALIYAH
PRAISE YOU	praiseyou	FATBOY SLIM
RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW	righther	FATBOY SLIM
ROCKFELLA SKANK	rockfela	FATBOY SLIM
GANGSTER TRIPPING	gangster	FATBOY SLIM
THIS I PROMISE YOU	thisipro	NSYNC
BECAUSE I GET HIGH	Igethigh	AFROMAN
WHAT CAN I DO	whatcani	THE CORRS
FULL MOON	fullmoon	BRANDY
ALL YOU WANTED	youwanted	MICHELLE BRANCH
HOW YOU REMIND ME	howyoure	NICKELBACK
BLURRY	blurry	PUDDLE OF MUD
SOAK UP THE SUN	soakup	SHERYL CROW
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
I NEED YOU	Ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
A THOUSAND MILES	athousan	VANESSA CARLTON
ORDINARY DAY	ordinary	VANESSA CARLTON
SMOOTH CRIMINAL	smoothcr	MICHAEL JACKSON
DON'T LET ME GET ME	dontletm	PINK

www.SMILEY-[illegible].com

How to download:

To download, send the following to 2345:
For icons, type in **L (keyword)**. Ex: L smiley7
For tones, type in **N (keyword)**. Ex: N geturfre

To download text cards, send the following to 2301:
Type in **TC (keyword)**. Ex: TC smiley4

To forward to your friends, send the following to 2345:
For icons, type in **L (keyword) (mobile number).**
Ex: L smiley27 09171234567
For tones, type in **N (keyword) (mobile number).**
Ex: N geturfre 09171234567

To forward text cards to your friends, send the following to 2301:
Type in **TC (keyword) (mobile number).**
Ex: TC smiley10 09171234567

ICONS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS:
Nokia: 5110 (version 4.59 & up), 3210, 3310, 5210, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 6510, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Sendo: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

TEXT CARDS SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS:
Nokia: 3210, 3310, 5210, 6210, 6510, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8850 & 8890
Enhanced screen saver: Nokia 3310 & 3330

RING TONES SERVICE WORKS WITH THE FOLLOWING MODELS:
Nokia: 3210, 3310, 3330, 5210, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 6510, 7110, 8210, 8250, 8310, 8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Sendo: S200, J520 P200 (using Nokia keywords)

Service provided by:
the wsa
wireless services asia

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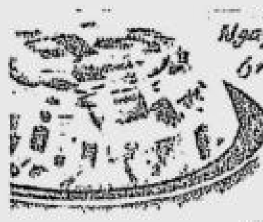
SATURDAY Special


Magandang Grandparents' Day, bigyan sila ng pampatamis ng puso

Celebrate Grandparents' Day with the Goldilocks Cathedral Window.

Goldilocks.
How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.

Sam Mendes' dreams come true in 'Road to Perdition'

MENDES (foreground) with Tom Hanks at Venice filmfest.

By Jane Barrett

VENICE, Italy—Many people thought Sam Mendes' dreams had come true when the British director walked off with an Oscar for his first Hollywood film but his second movie is giving him just as many kicks.

Gangster movie

"Road to Perdition," a gangster movie set in the Depression era Midwest, is in the running for the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion award but Mendes feels he has already been rewarded.

"It was such a fantastic opportunity to direct a movie in a genre I just loved as a child," Mendes told Reuters Television after attending a gala screening of the film with lead actor Tom Hanks.

SAM/G2

MSA SPEECH ENHANCEMENT

SATURDAYS: September 14 - November 23
(Kids: 10:00am - 12:00nn)
(Adults: 1:00pm - 3:00pm)

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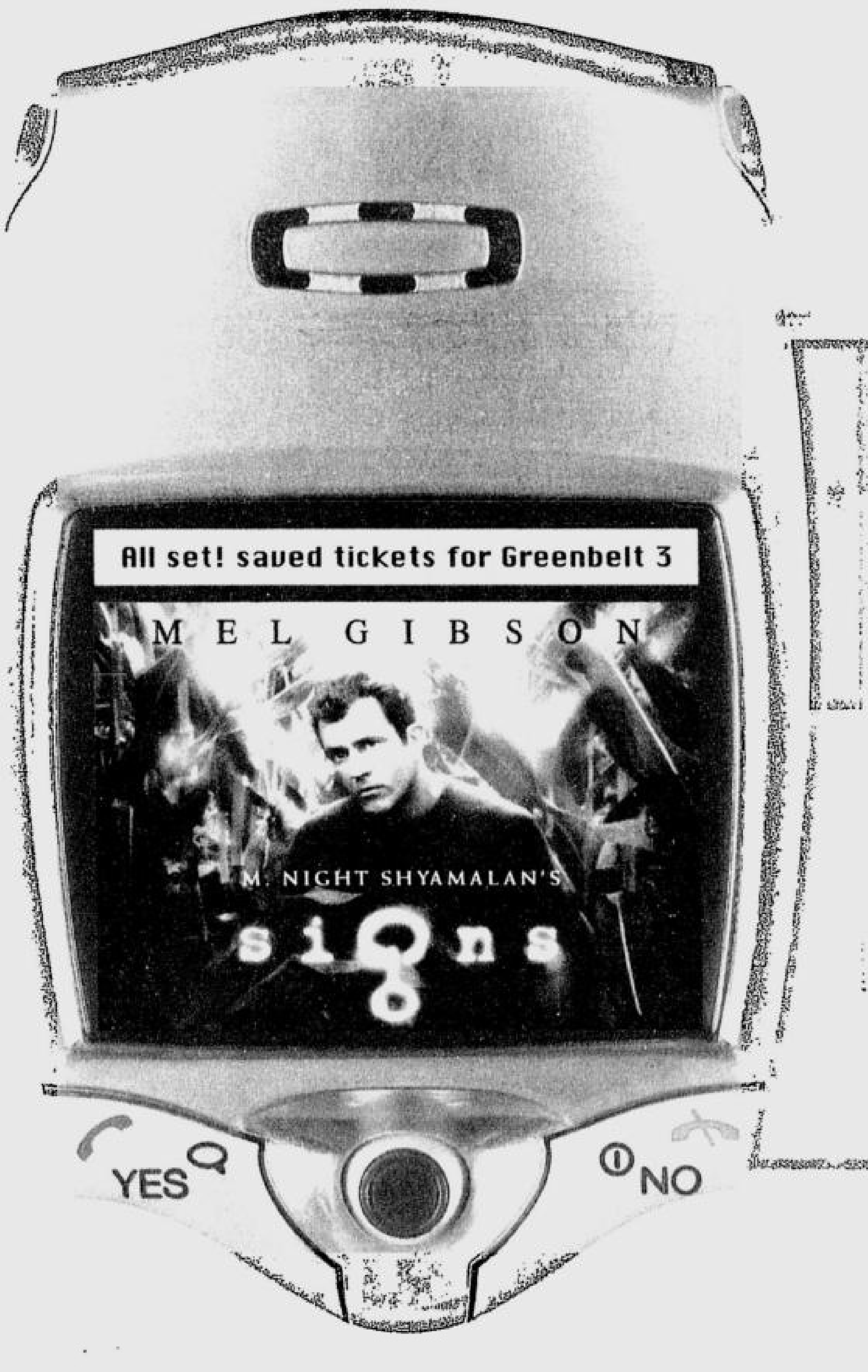
cinematic ⓖ



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Kathryn Bigelow directs 'K-19'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE ADVANCE word on Harrison Ford's latest starrer, "K-19: The Widowmaker" is that it's a gripping action-adventure-drama with a lot of power and dynamism going for it. That's why viewers are surprised when they learn that its director is a woman.

Fuss

For her part, director Kathryn Bigelow doesn't understand what the fuss is all about. As far as she's concerned, she's a *director*, period, and her gender is not relevant to, and certainly should not limit or define, her work.

This is a big improvement over the situation in the '60s and '70s, when women directors were pretty much restricted to making "light" romances or weepy movies for the female audience.

If Bigelow and other women directors continue to get offered "gender-blind" projects, the female film artists who come after them will have a freer hand in making films of their choosing, without being held back by stereotypical expectations.

Major improvement

Incidentally, the same thing is happening in Filipino movies. Directors like Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Laurice Guillen and Joyce Bernal make movies that are not limited or defined by their being women.

This augurs well for other Filipinas who want to make movies, and liberates them from thinking "within the box" as far as feminine or even feminist considerations are concerned.

This is not to say that directors like Bigelow cease to be women. Indeed, their womanhood informs the movies they make, and gives them added acuity, even if they're doing tough, "macho" films like "K-19."

BIGELOW. Gender shouldn't limit or define one's work.

Fact-based

The film is fact-based. At the height of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, the Soviets rattled not just sabers but also nuclear missiles launched from submarines that could get within striking distance of the USA.

So eager were the Soviets to unnerve the Americans that they rushed the construction and testing of their most advanced sub, the K-19. Tragically, the sub's atomic reactor's cooling system sprang a leak that threatened to blow the K-19 up—and, along with it, the nuclear warheads it carried. This could have set off of World War Three!

That eventuality was averted, thankfully. But the saga of the K-19 remains an instructive, cautionary experience that everyone can learn from—except that the Soviets weren't about to admit to any flaw in their military might, and kept the entire tragedy secret for decades.

Passion for history

However, they didn't count on Kathryn Bigelow, and her passion for history. She viewed a Russian documentary that hinted at the ill-fated sub's saga, and saw its awesome filmic possibilities.

She recalls, "What really had an impact on me was that it was Russian heroism that had a profound effect on American lives by preventing a possible nuclear confrontation."

She knew of course, that American movies were loath to depict Russian characters as heroes. But she was fully determined to give credit where credit was due.

That's why she spent many months researching the K-19's saga, and went to Russia a number of times to interview survivors.

No hidden agenda

At first, they didn't want to open up to her, but they eventually saw that she had no hidden agenda and simply wanted to honor them by telling their story of courage and sacrifice. Thus, they finally opened up to her, sharing a wealth of personal details that gave the film both credibility and that all-important personal dimension that makes for great audience empathy.

During the film's shooting phase, Bigelow had to be as tough as nails and "one of the boys," but she didn't mind. After all, during her long research phase, she had found the heart of her movie, and knew that its humanity would shine through all the tough technical rigors of filmmaking, and make "K-19: The Widowmaker" both compelling and movingly unique.

Lara Fabregas, one year later

By Bibsy M. Carballo

(Conclusion)

BIBSY: What were the most trying months of your marriage?

Lara: The whole year! Immediately after we got married, we opened our office. A few weeks after that, I had an ectopic pregnancy and at the same time we were adjusting to each other.

Weaknesses

It's been wild. Most of our clashes are caused by our weaknesses. Mine are insecurity, doubt and fear.

When I look around me at the broken marriages out there, I get really scared.

It's stupid to think that way because I know where I stand and I do trust Ramon, but these demons just love to visit every now and then.

Prayer helps, and trust in God. Since I got married I've gotten closer to God, and there are people who have been helping us. We go to church as often as we can. Our friends there are wonderful and they are truly gifts from God.

Have you given up on some friends since your marriage?

Other married couples

None. *Hindi naman contrabida sa buhay namin ang mga kaibigan namin.* It just so happened that our lifestyles have changed. We don't go out drinking and partying anymore.

What is the best thing about being married?

The best thing is that Raymond is truly the most dedicated man I've ever encountered. I trust him completely when it comes to our marriage. Of course sometimes I get insecure, especially when we argue and *siyempre* there are times when we clash, but when emotions settle I realize that he is always on my side.

FABREGAS. Not yet ready to have children.

When will you start raising a family?

We're not ready yet. I think we're still so caught up in each other and we might as well enjoy it. We want to be really prepared before we have children.

Broken families

We're both from broken families and sometimes we still get lost in this marriage thing because we never had a model of what a complete family is meant to be. We want to have a solid foundation before we decide to have children.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of both being in the same profession?

The advantage is that we understand each other emotionally. The disadvantage is that our working hours keep changing, and of course this affects our moods.

What have you learned in this year of being married?

I've learned that I don't know as much as I thought I did, and that I'm still very young in so many ways. I also learned that life is so much bigger than theater or the movies, that what is important is you care for each other and help each other, that you open your heart to the world and try to be the best person you can be!

Sam Mendes' dreams . . .

From page G1

"I thought, 'I don't know when I'll get another chance to do a film like this on a scale like this, so I'm going to get on and enjoy it,'" he added.

The film is less gangland than a story about tough relationships between fathers and sons. Paul Newman plays Irish-Catholic don John Rooney, surrogate father to steely hitman Michael Sullivan, portrayed by Tom Hanks.

Massacre

Sullivan's two young boys idolize him but are unaware of his trade until the elder boy one night witnesses his father take part in a massacre. The relationship changes forever and leads to more bloodshed.

Mendes wiped the Hollywood awards board in 1999 with "American Beauty", picking up a Golden Globe, an Oscar and numerous industry prizes. Many reviews of "Road to Perdition" have been less favorable.

Mendes, 37, is well aware the success of "American Beauty" will be hard to follow but is ready to roll with the punches.

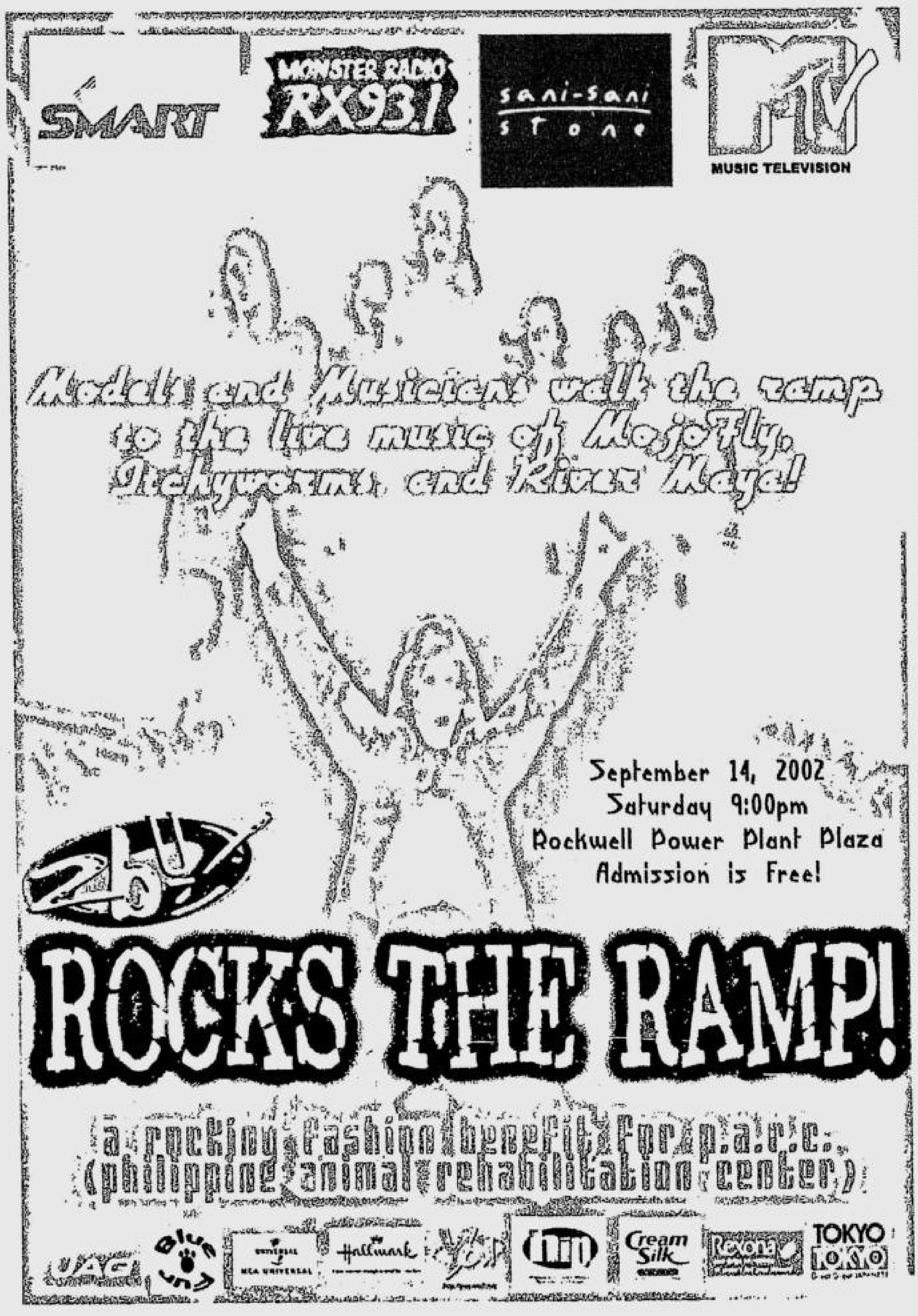
"When you've done one film and it's been a big success, the temptation is to cling to what you know and make another vague version of the same thing," Mendes said.

"But I want to keep learning about making films, which is very difficult to do when you are being watched so closely. For me the attraction of 'Road to Perdition' was that it pulled me in a totally different direction," the tousle-haired director added.

Critical acclaim

That approach echoes Mendes' work on the London stage, where he has won critical acclaim for productions from "The Blue Room," in which Nicole Kidman famously stripped naked, to Shakespeare's "Othello" which won him an Olivier award for best director.

Reuters



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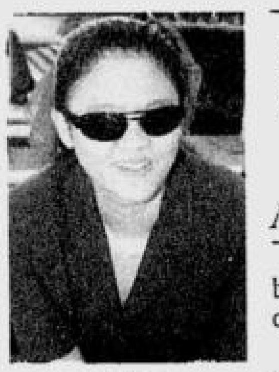
Roselle Ambubuyog triumphs over her disability

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

DOES the name sound familiar? Maybe the memory needs a little jogging. A few years back, she made the cover story of a popular broadsheet—a little girl consistently making it to the top of her class despite her being blind.



AMBUBUYOG. Wants to help other disabled Filipinos.

Loving parents

She was not always that way, according to her loving parents. Roselle had asthma, and in one of her attacks, she was prescribed a combination of four over-the-counter medicines. Something freaky happened, an unexplained acute allergic reaction, and at six, she was blind.

"I stopped school for two years," Roselle adds, "then I went back to school at the Batino Elementary School in Quezon City, and afterwards, at the Ramon Magsaysay High School. I graduated Valedictorian of Batch '97. I was 17 then."

Failure

How did the family deal with Roselle's unfortunate experience? "*Matapang siya,*" her mother Deanna smiles in recollection. "After her first operation's failure, Roselle did not show anguish or discouragement. *Kami pa nga siguro ang nalulungkot ng husto para sa kanya.*"

What the family did is a shining example of familial love, bonding and unity. "We made sure Roselle did not miss out on anything. We read to her. Her father handled sciences, one brother took care of mathematics, the other one Pilipino," Deanna relates.

Roselle shares, "I majored in BS Mathematics in Ateneo University, where I graduated Valedictorian and Summa Cum Laude."

And today? "I am at UP., taking up my Master's in Applied Mathematics, majoring in Actuarial Science."

Why Actuarial Science? "I was attracted to it because no insurance policies are issued to disabled Filipinos. My dream is to be able to help formulate policies to meet their insurance needs.

"Sadly, the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons is not really enforced. Like there are no facilities for blind students in most schools. The only schools that allow entry of blind students are UP, Ateneo, PWU, UST, PCU, and Trinity College," Roselle informs.

What else keeps her busy? She has a Nokia 8250 but maybe it's useless to ask about Roselle and texting, the country's favorite pastime. "Oh, but I do text a lot!" she exclaims. "But someone has to be nearby to read the messages to me."

"I am using a Touch Mobile system by Globe now. It's cheaper than the other systems. I can also receive voice messages.

"Hopefully, telephone manufacturers like Nokia can design phones for the blind. That would be really something!"

Aubrey Miles, Regal's latest bold star

By Edmund L. Sicam

AFTER introducing Lolita de Leon in the controversial "Laman," Regal Films is launching another bold star in the person of Aubrey Miles in the Erik Matti movie, "Prosti." Aubrey, whose real name is Aubrey Sandel, is 20 years old and measures 35-25-35. She says she is ready to take on the challenge of becoming a bold star. Although, she would prefer to be called otherwise.

"*Para sa akin,* 'sexy star' is better," comments the new star. She says she thought long and hard for two months before finally saying "yes" to Regal.

Beauty contests

So far, she has no regrets. Aubrey says she is enjoying herself immensely. She gets to meet a lot of people and she enjoys seeing herself onscreen. She has joined many beauty contests, and she usually wins a prize.

She reveals that her sister is also into joining beauty contests, and so was her mother, many years ago. She proudly says that her mother had such a beautiful face and body that, unlike Aubrey, she would actually win beauty titles.

It was *Kuya* Germs who first noticed Aubrey and put her in the cast of "Best Friends." This led to a role in "Beh Bote Nga." Aubrey admits that at that time, she was not too serious about show business. But she told herself that by the time she reached 20, she had to do something different, and this is why she has decided to go bold. "*Depende lang naman sa iyo* how you carry it, *di ba?*" She says that among the sexy stars today, it is Joyce Jimenez whom she admires the most. "*Di ako nababastusan (kay* Joyce)," she shares.

Catholic schools

A graduate of Catholic schools, she has stopped her studies at the UST Conservatory nored in piano. No, they did not make her stop because of her decision to star in bold movies. Aubrey says she was getting bored with singing classical songs.

MILES. No regrets.

Aubrey gave us a sample of her singing voice by singing a portion of "End of the Line." She admits that she would like to be a recording artist someday, but for now, she wants to concentrate on her acting career.

Unlike most sexy stars, Aubrey does not hide the fact that she is not a virgin anymore. Is it because virginity is not a big deal with her? "*Sa akin,* big deal, *pero nawala na,* so I have to accept it. Open-minded *ako. Kung gusto niyong pag-usapan ang* sex, OK *lang sa akin. Pero hindi naman ako bastos na sobrang* liberated," she clarifies.

Aubrey says that shooting her first kissing scene made her very nervous. But she credits co-star Jay Manalo for being very professional and helping her through this initiation. "*Magaling siya magdala, humatak.*"

The new star says that she was edgy at first but she did her best because she wanted to do all the love scenes in just one take.

Raves

She also has nothing but raves for her director, Erik Matti. "*Magaling siya.* After *ng* shoot, *para siyang bata,*" she relates. But she was also given a taste of the director's temper when she arrived late on the set one day. "*Sinigawan niya ako,* professional *siya talaga. Pero* friendly *din, hindi siya iyung* director *na*

Best in fine-dining cuisine

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

EATING in a fine-dining restaurant is one of the most enjoyable experiences of any food lover. Here, in Metro Manila we seldom find a restaurant that's consistent in this regard. There are only a handful of restaurants that have stayed open over the years. So, which one do we choose?

The moment Fine Dining is mentioned, one name comes to mind: Chef Billy King. The success of Le Souffle over the years speaks for itself. This restaurant was hardly affected by the economic crunch. If Le Soufflés success were used as an indicator of the country's economy, we would be one of the most prosperous countries in Asia.

Bong invited us for dinner at a new restaurant. I had heard about it from friends, but it was the mention of Billy King's involvement in the place that brightened the prospects for dinner.

Partners

Nuvo is located at Greenbelt 2 at Ayala Center. The place is run by Billy and a few partners. One of the nicest restaurants in the metropolis, it has a modern motif. The new hangout doubles as a bar/restaurant. Here, Billy has a new chef and his menu is totally different from Le Soufflés.

As soon as our party of six was handed the menu, we simultaneously took out our reading glasses. I realized, we were no longer the once carefree bunch we used to be. The years have changed a part of us. But the passion for good food has remained.

For appetizers, I really liked the Sardines braised with Pommery Mustard, the Smoked tanguingue Nicoise, and the "never say die" dish of pan-fried fresh goose liver or foie gras. The foie gras was on top of mashed potatoes and caramelized apples, and topped with a nice, warm truffle sauce. Out of this world!

Main course

For the main course, I enjoyed the pepper steak made from the tenderloin cut of Black Angus beef, with a cognac cream sauce, gratin of leeks with potatoes and vegetables. I also enjoyed the crispy lapu-lapu with creamy cucumber and potatoes, and the sauteed Chilean Sea Bass with lemon butter sauce. But I prefer to have the Sea Bass with the sauce of the Lapu-lapu. Also delicious!

The desserts need a lift from pastry genius Chef Jesse Sincioco. With that done, this is *the* place to dine these days.

So, if you're wondering what new restaurant is good, wonder no more. Nuvo is it! Located at the Greenbelt 2, it serves the best in fine dining cuisine. Check it out!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Piolo Pascual, romantic poet

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

PIOLO Pascual prefers to stay home than party at night. He claims that being in the limelight complicates things, while being with his family simplifies them.

"When I'm at home, I play a lot with my niece, sleep, take care of our plants, or play with my dalmatian, Cha-pee. I'm not stressed out and I save money *pa*," Piolo grins.

"When I was in the States, I watched movies everyday. I'm a movie addict. I can't do that here."

His intensity and sensitivity are innate to him. He courted girls in high school by writing poetry. "Up to now, I write poems when I'm in the mood. My poems are very personal, *walang* pattern. I just write what I feel," he shares.

Donita Rose on long-distance relationships

Donita Rose is in bloom again. For some time now, her heart has been reserved for a graphic designer based in San Francisco. Donita says that it's all a matter of putting everything in the right perspective and order.

Donita admits that her phone bill is huge, although she insists it's all worth it. "True love shouldn't have a price tag attached to it," she says.

Donita flew into town to dub for her forthcoming film "Nine Mornings," and to finalize other contracts that will keep her busy till the middle of next year, including a film with Vic Sotto.

Are there plans to settle down soon? "Oh my, with the hectic schedule I have, I doubt it very much—but I want to get married before I turn 30!" she smiles. Donita is turning 27 in December and she thinks that it's more likely that her boyfriend should start thinking about relocating to Asia.

Another A-1 episode from 'The Correspondents'

A recent telecast of "The Correspondents" was truly insightful and opened our eyes to the sad plight of gays in filthy jails, and the hopeful lives of female students in cramped dormitories.

The feature on gays was commendable. There was not an instant when the subjects were dehumanized because of who they were and why they were in prison.

Likewise, the segment on female dormers bared what many students have to endure just to get a decent education in the urban jungle of Metro Manila.

Star's spiritual album and Viva's 'religious' band

From page G4

the monicker Inspirational Diva.

Also included in the 12-track album are songs interpreted by Jose Mari Chan, Robert Seña. Carol Banawa, Jimmy Bondoc, Dianne dela Fuente and Piolo Pascual.

Many of the songs are compositions of Fr. Marcelo, who looks at music as an ideal way of disseminating the word of God. He believes that modernizing religious songs breaks the barrier that some people face when they listen to the usual Gregorian-type melodies. His songs are usually pop ballads that are easy to understand and appeal to a wide segment of the population.

Last week, Star Records hosted a special mass at Studio 1 of the ABS-CBN compound officiated by Fr. Marcelo. The celebration coincided with Jamie's birthday.

Religious name

Meanwhile, a band with a religious name officially launched its first full album under Viva Records at Ratsky's on Tomas Morato. Tribe of Levi refers to the direct descendants of Levi, the third son of Jacob or Israel, who were consecrated during the Old Testament times to exclusively serve the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as priests and musicians in the temple.

Tribe of Levi, the band, started out singing spiritual songs under the supervision of its managing director, Roxanne Lapus. At one point, the group decided that they could still follow their mission-vision statement, "consecrated for music," even with non-spiritual songs.

Their full-length album contains 18 tracks and features three songs that have been given new arrangements: "Your Smile" is a happy pop dance tune featuring the Tribe's three vocalists: Zaq Salazar, Robbie Rapsmith and Lauren C. "La La Means I Love You," popularized by The Jacksons Five, has a new jazzy flavor with rap lyrics on the side. And "The Way We Were," popularized by Barbra Streisand and given a new twist by Rico J, has been given a millennial appeal and Tagalog lyrics by the Tribe.

These songs plus the other tracks in the album are being performed live by the band in some of the best watering holes in town. This month, the band will be at Ratsky Malate every Wednesday and Ratsky Morato every Friday, and Tribe of Levi is the featured group at Hard Rock Makati on Saturday nights.

Aside from Salazar, Rapsmith and Lauren C, the other members of the band are Emerzon Texon, Edward Mitra, Mark Anthony Ayangco and Ramil Servales. The band also features songbird Princess Samson.

RIVERA. "Inspirational diva."

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Star's spiritual album and Viva's 'religious' band

By Edmund L. Sicam

STAR Records recently launched its latest spiritual album in connection with the Fourth World Meeting of Families to be held in the Philippines on Jan. 22 to 26, 2003. According to our former ambassador to the Vatican, Henrietta de Villa, the Pope himself chose Manila as the site of the important event. It's just too bad that ill health will prevent the Pontiff from coming to this country. However, De Villa said the Holy Father will deliver a message that will be beamed by satellite to the Philippines. She also expects a huge attendance from the 50 countries invited to the event.

Unity and love

The album, "Only Selfless Love," topbills Jamie Rivera who sings the carrier single "Only Selfless Love," composed by Fr. Carlo Magno Marcelo. The single's music video has been airing on TV for several weeks now and stresses the importance of unity and love in the family. Jamie has become a favorite when it comes to religious songs and has gained

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Jerry Lewis is 76, going on 10

LEWIS. Still funny after all these years.

By Nestor U. Torre

JERRY Lewis is 76 years old, going on 10. That's the way the veteran comic describes himself to people, to explain why he's still funny at an age when many people turn into crusty curmudgeons.

Steroids

Interviewed by Larry King on CNN recently, the old comedy star also surprised viewers with his newly-acquired heft and girth. He used to have a 27-inch waistline for years, but it's ballooned to 49"—no thanks to the steroids that he's had to take for the pain from his many illnesses and disabilities (including his latest, viral meningitis and pulmonary fibrosis).

But all of his physical torments haven't prevented him from continuing with his annual telethons for research into a cure for muscular distrophy, his main mission for decades. He cheerfully shares the good news that experts predict that the debilitating disease will indeed be cured within his lifetime. (The cure will probably be named after him, because he's raised more than $100 M to lick the crippling illness.)

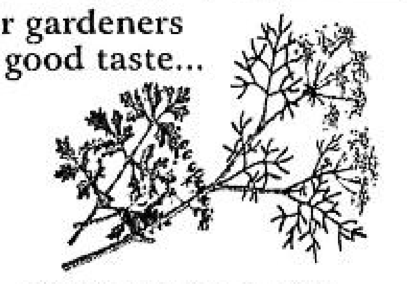
Terrible pain

What about his own physical woes? Jerry says he isn't complaining now. He's had to deal with terrible pain for 37 years, but the steroids and a pain-relief device that has been implanted into his spine have finally made him pain-free.

That's why he's working again. He is writing a book on his life that is so long that it will have to be published in a sequential series.

And he's just sold six of his old films to movie studios that want to remake them. He's getting a hefty sum for the rights to them, too—double what they originally cost to produce!

JERRY/H3



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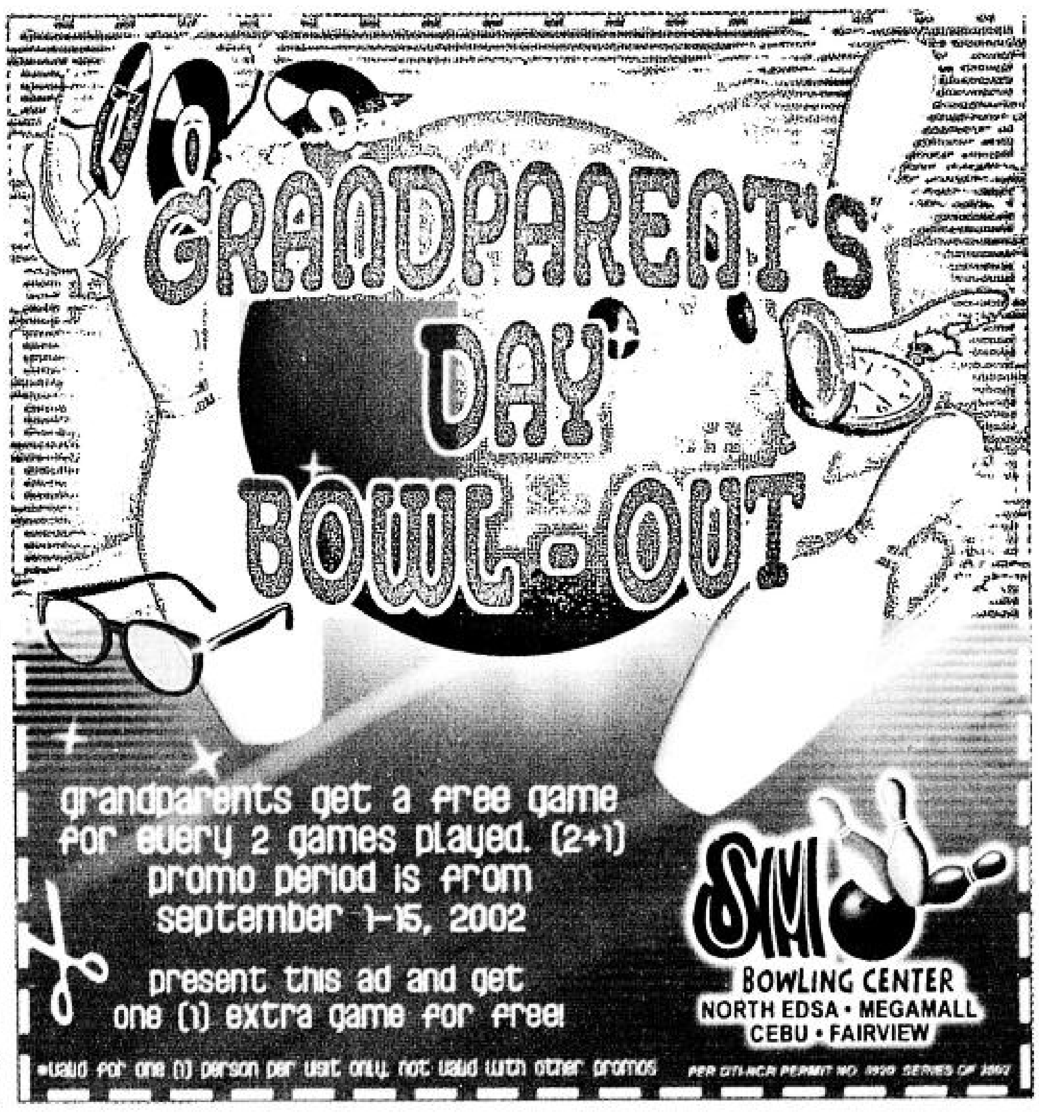

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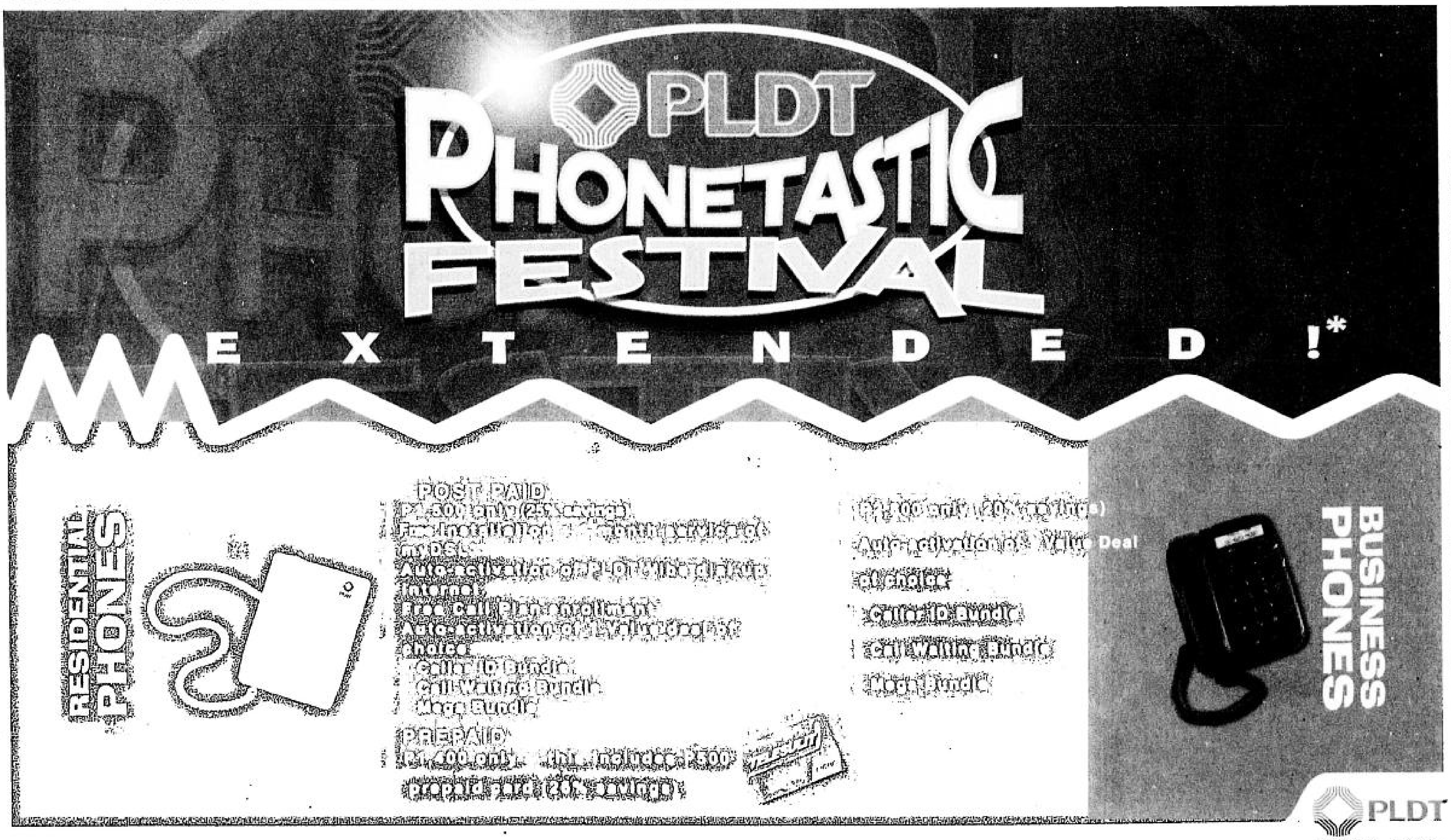

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Pila Sta. Cruz, Pa[illegible]
Malolos Ga[illegible], Baliuag [illegible]
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Bacolod [illegible] Bayawan Cadiz, Escalante
Kabankalan [illegible] Castellana, Manapla
Sagay, [illegible]
Iloilo Al[illegible] Dumangas
[illegible] Pontevedra
Cebu [illegible]
Mandaue [illegible] Mac[illegible] Tagbilaran
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South Las Pinas, North Paranaque, Pasay, RC Bldg, SM Southmall, Tower Business Office
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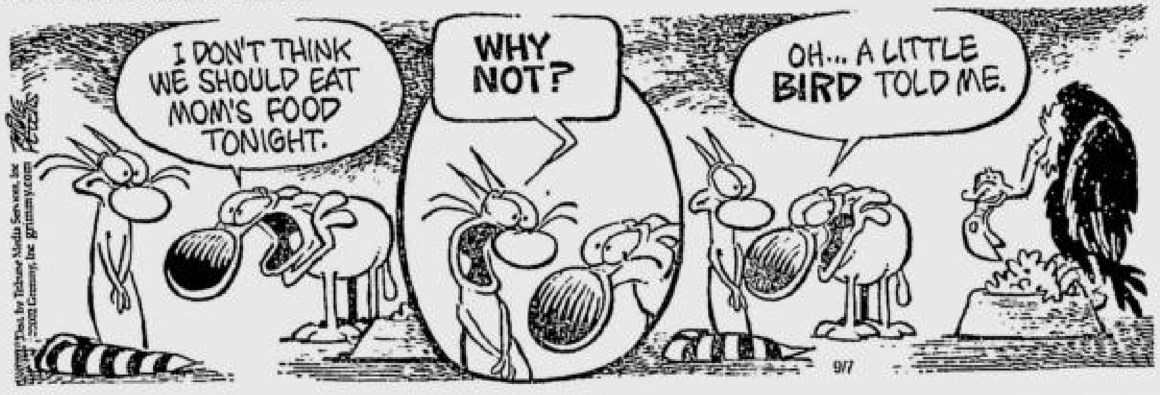
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

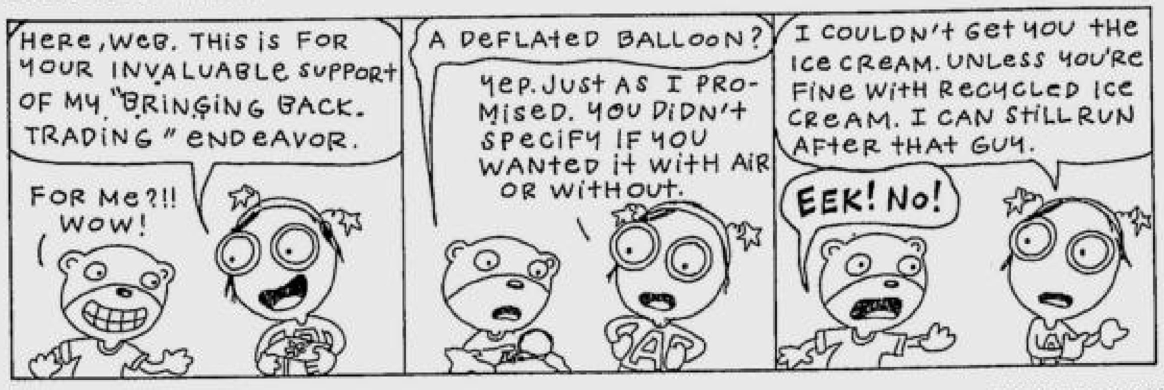
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD EAT MOM'S FOOD TONIGHT.
WHY NOT?
OH... A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME.
9/7

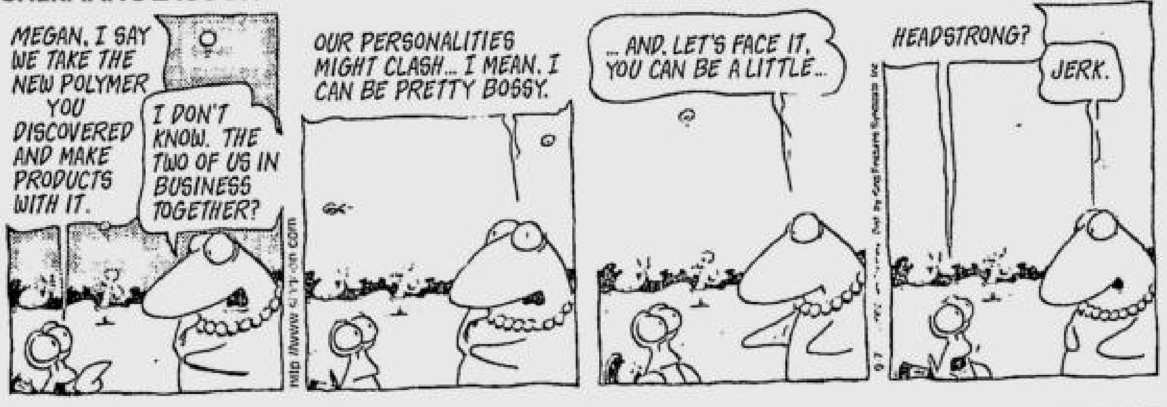
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here, Web. This is For your INVALUABLE support of my "Bringing Back. Trading" endeavor.
For me?!! Wow!
A deflated balloon?
yep. Just as I promised. you didn't specify if you wanted it with air or without.
I couldn't get you the ice cream. Unless you're fine with recycled ice cream. I can still run after that guy.
EEK! No!

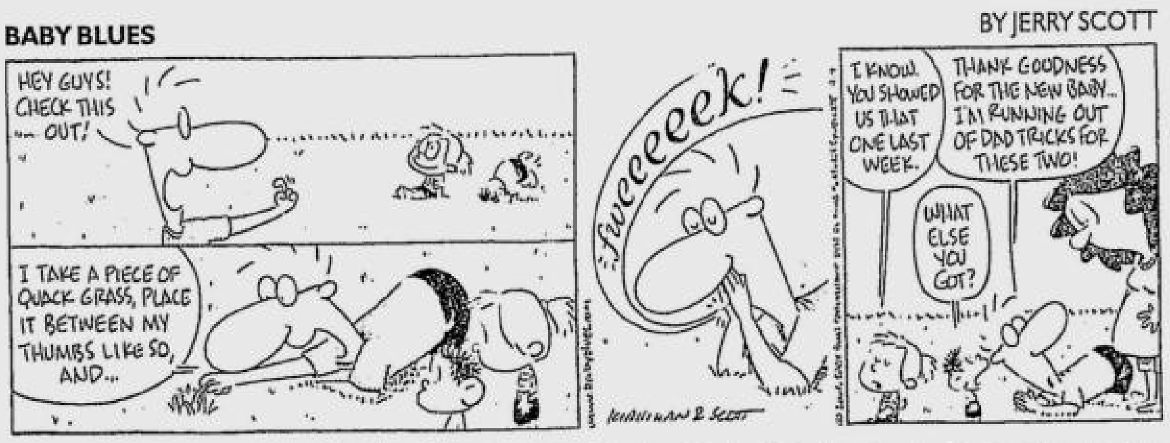
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, I SAY WE TAKE THE NEW POLYMER YOU DISCOVERED AND MAKE PRODUCTS WITH IT.
I DON'T KNOW. THE TWO OF US IN BUSINESS TOGETHER?
OUR PERSONALITIES MIGHT CLASH... I MEAN, I CAN BE PRETTY BOSSY.
... AND, LET'S FACE IT, YOU CAN BE A LITTLE...
HEADSTRONG?
JERK.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY GUYS! CHECK THIS OUT!
I TAKE A PIECE OF QUACK GRASS, PLACE IT BETWEEN MY THUMBS LIKE SO, AND...
Sweeeeek!
I KNOW. YOU SHOWED US THAT ONE LAST WEEK.
THANK GOODNESS FOR THE NEW BABY... I'M RUNNING OUT OF DAD TRICKS FOR THESE TWO!
WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Stevens, Julie Kavner, Corbin Bernsen, Michael Feinstein
Happy Birthday: This is not a year to ponder or to sit back and relax. The moves you make this year will affect the rest of your life, so be smart and thorough in your investigation. think fast and be prepared for whatever comes your way. keep up the momentum and find yourself in a very profitable position. Your numbers are 8, 19, 25, 29, 34, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): : Complete all those side projects and get moving on the new ideas that are pushing their way through from the back of your mind. It's a great feeling to be productive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take note that all you have to do is to push yourself a little. Make the personal changes that you think will improve your appearance and your spirits. Strive for perfection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Real estate transitions may not run as smoothly as you had hoped. Keep working in that direction and you will discover that everything will fall into place shortly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time getting out with friends. You need some space and the reassurance of a variety of friends who will be supportive and fun to be with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Brief adventures will lead back to some old memories. Someone from your past may come to mind. If you reconnect with this person, you will find that the timing is much better now than it was before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Distraction is necessary right now. Love affairs may entangle you in some painful confusion and the way to untangle yourself may be through a hobby. Protect your heart and your sanity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change in the scenery could be very pleasing, but it's best that you make those changes yourself. You know what you like better than anyone else and perhaps you're not up for surprises right now. Rest and relaxation will suit you just fine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be torn in a few different directions today, but that will make you feel important and in control. Take care of your personal or financial matters. Be practical about the promises you make.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The less time you spend listening to other people's criticism and the more time you spend letting your creative side take over, the better. This is not the day to confront anyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you feel that your activities are less stimulating than before, do some research in name of leisure. You deserve some satisfaction as well as some good times.

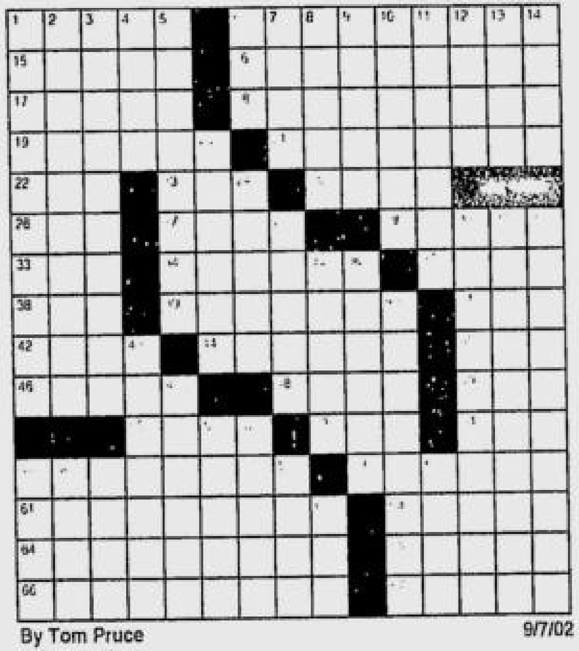
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look into long-term investments, update your will and deal with other legal documents. If you take care of it now you will be worry-free in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be feeling edgy if you don't have the straight details about an important relationship. Rather than being snappy, take a deep breath and just spill out how you feel.

Birthday Baby: You always look at both sides of an issue and follow your intuition. You astound others with your fearless approach to life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

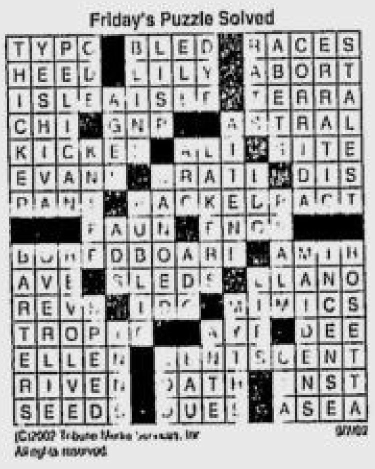


By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
9/7/02

ACROSS
1 Ornamental feather
6 Surf paintings
15 Kept talking
16 Manifestations of a disease
17 Von Bismarck and Graham
18 __ National Cemetery
19 Chatters
21 Generosity of spirit
22 Holbrook or Roach
23 Old horse
25 Clairvoyant
26 Seth's mother
27 Shaving-cream additive
29 Musical improvisations
33 Malleable metal
34 Lawyer in the Scopes trial
37 Thanks __!
38 Chow down
39 Esteemed
41 Mining product
42 Put one's foot down?
44 Senescent
45 New Testament bk.
46 Egypt's Anwar
48 Individuality
49 Arctic surface
50 Starchy root
53 Jamie __ Curtis
54 Condemnation from the church
55 Fast-food customers
59 Ski
61 Furniture with pockets?
63 Lone Ranger's sidekick
64 Howling lament
65 Of days gone by
66 Parted ways
67 Is a bookworm

DOWN
1 Woman soothsayer
2 Verdi opera
3 Lacking a gift
4 Meaningless
5 Baja California seaport
6 Fat farm
7 Supreme Court justice Warren
8 Mythical strongman
9 Talia of "Rocky"
10 Marine eel
11 Nation on the Mediterranean
12 Cooking vessels
13 Self-images
14 Ago in the Highlands
20 Greens courses
24 Vocalist Eydie
28 Moran and Gray
30 Hybrid rose
31 Predicted
32 Robert Louis and Teofilo
35 Window on a corbel
36 "Citizen Kane" director
40 One who disowns allegiance
43 Kneecap
47 Sauce for fish
51 Ranch name in "Giant"
52 Planetary circuit
55 Numbered musical piece
56 Actor's part
57 Fasten, as buttons
58 Gin flavoring
60 Target on a green
62 Finish

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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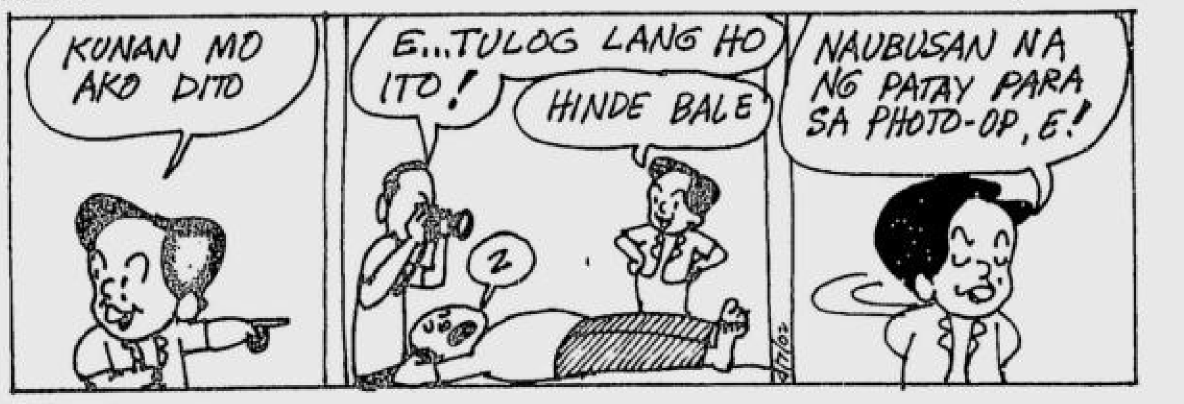
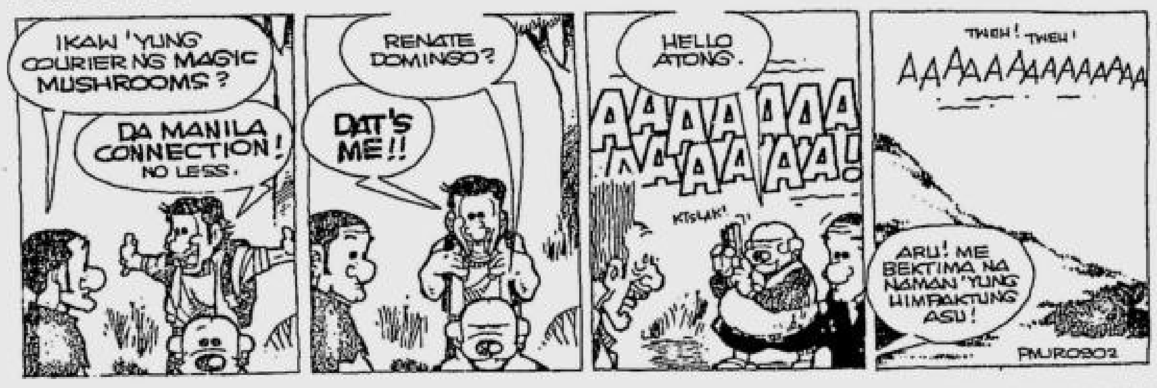
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KUNAN MO AKO DITO
E...TULOG LANG HO ITO!
HINDE BALE
NAUBUSAN NA NG PATAY PARA SA PHOTO-OP, E!

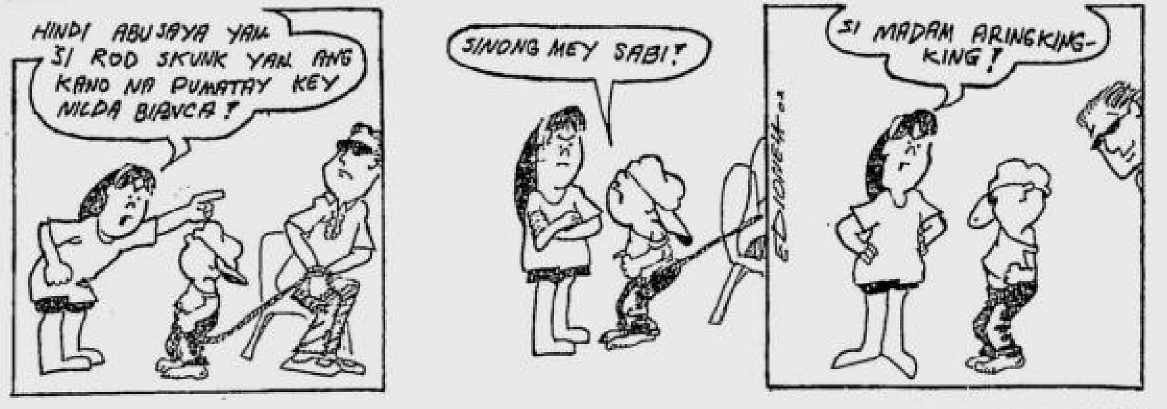
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IKAW 'YUNG COURIER NG MAGIC MUSHROOMS?
DA MANILA CONNECTION! NO LESS.
RENATE DOMINGO?
DAT'S ME!!
HELLO ATONG.
AAAAAAAAAAAAA!
KTSLAK!
THEH! THEH!
AAAAAAAAAAAA
ARU! ME BEKTIMA NA NAMAN 'YUNG HIMPAKTUNG ASU!
PMJR0802

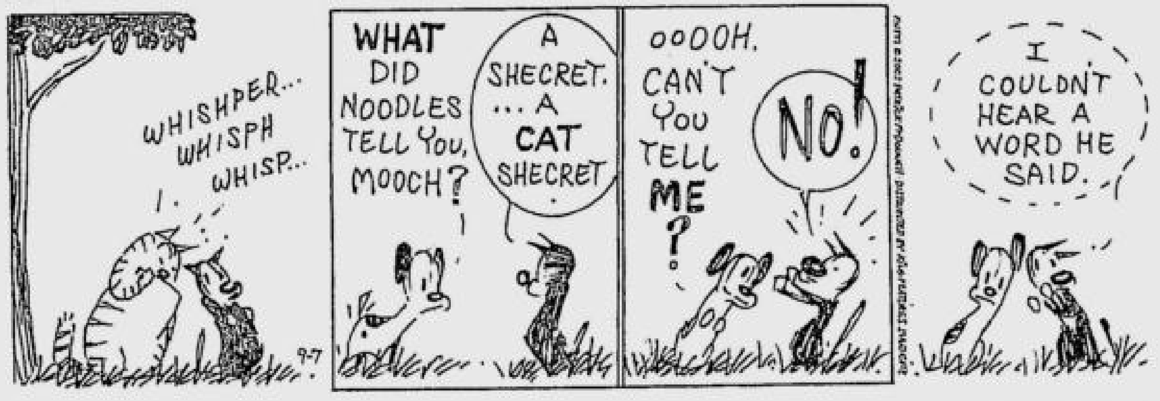
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HINDI ABUSAYA YAN. SI ROD SKUNK YAN ANG KANO NA PUMATAY KEY NILDA BIANCA!
SINONG MEY SABI?
SI MADAM ARINGKING-KING!
DIONELA

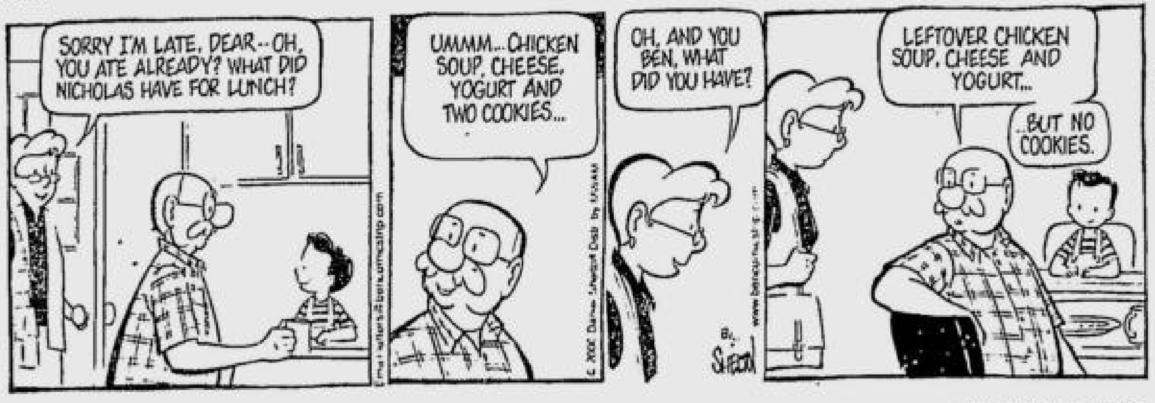
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHISHPER... WHISPH WHISP...
9-7
WHAT DID NOODLES TELL YOU, MOOCH?
A SHECRET. ... A CAT SHECRET.
OOOOH. CAN'T YOU TELL ME?
No!
I COULDN'T HEAR A WORD HE SAID.

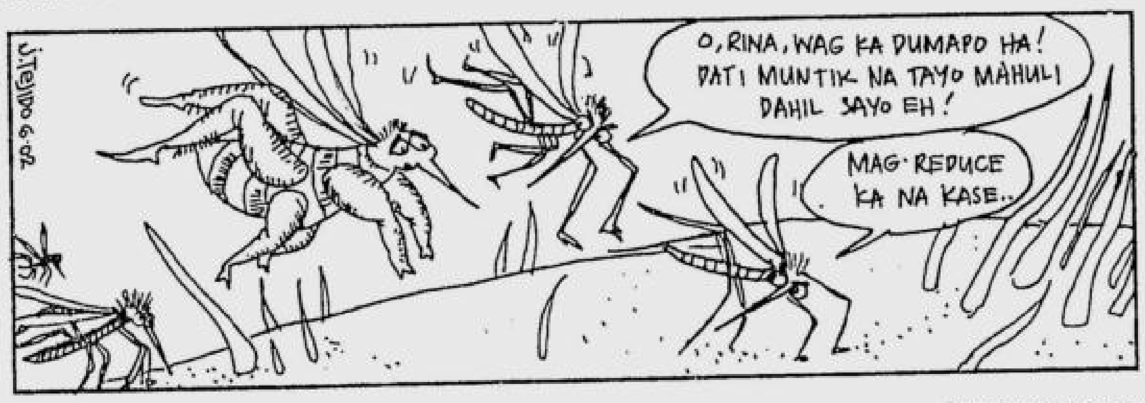
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SORRY I'M LATE, DEAR--OH, YOU ATE ALREADY? WHAT DID NICHOLAS HAVE FOR LUNCH?
UMMM... CHICKEN SOUP, CHEESE, YOGURT AND TWO COOKIES...
OH, AND YOU BEN, WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
LEFTOVER CHICKEN SOUP, CHEESE AND YOGURT...
...BUT NO COOKIES.
SHELTON

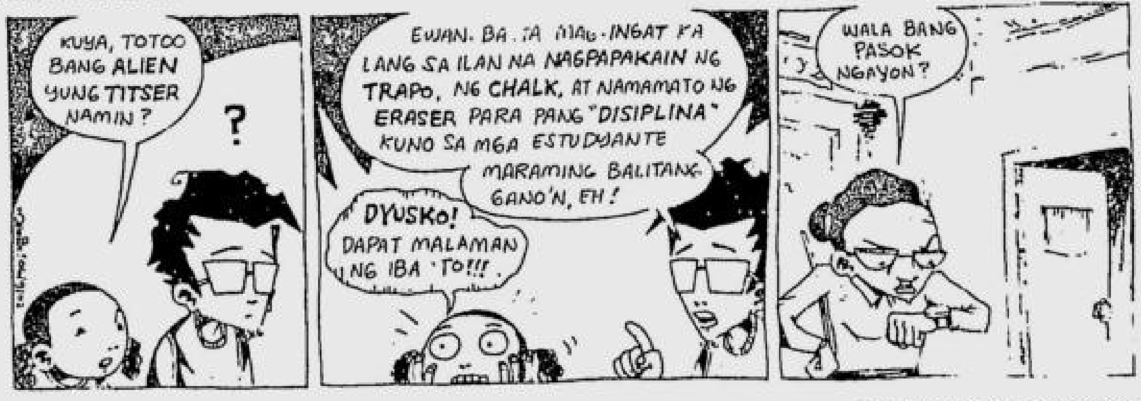
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J.TEJIDO 6-02
O, RINA, WAG KA DUMAPO HA! DATI MUNTIK NA TAYO MAHULI DAHIL SAYO EH!
MAG-REDUCE KA NA KASE...

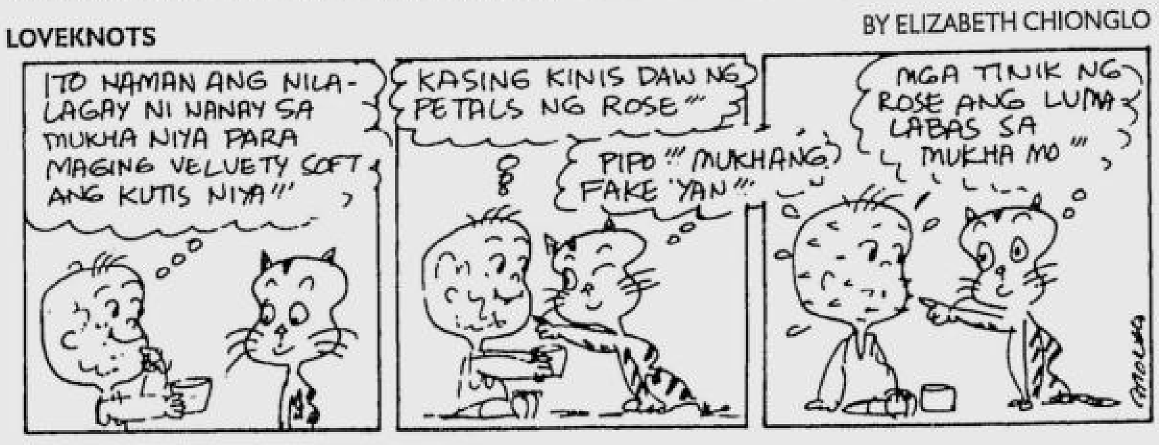
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KUYA, TOTOO BANG ALIEN YUNG TITSER NAMIN?
?
EWAN. BASTA MAG-INGAT KA LANG SA ILAN NA NAGPAPAKAIN NG TRAPO, NG CHALK, AT NAMAMATO NG ERASER PARA PANG "DISIPLINA" KUNO SA MGA ESTUDYANTE
MARAMING BALITANG GANO'N, EH!
DYUSKO! DAPAT MALAMAN NG IBA 'TO!!!
WALA BANG PASOK NGAYON?

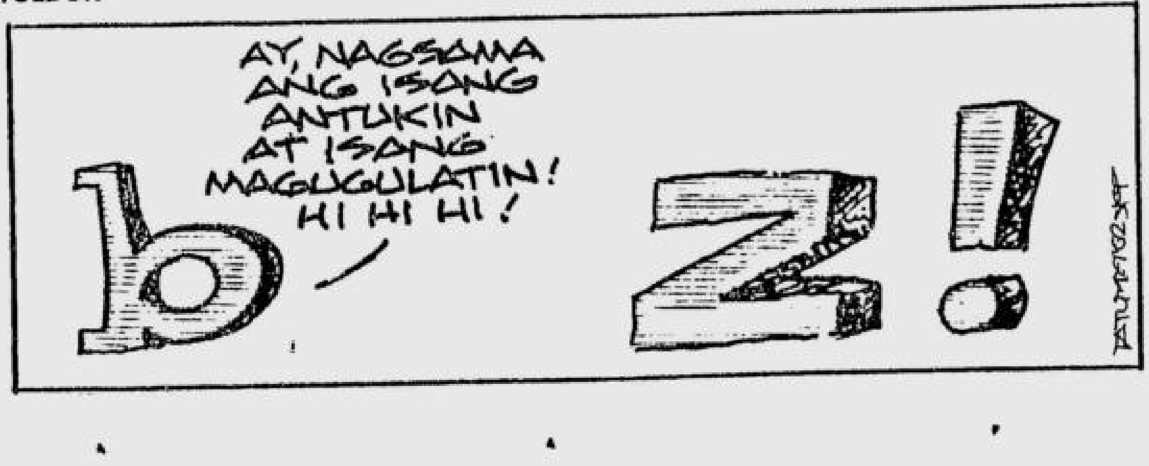
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ITO NAMAN ANG NILALAGAY NI NANAY SA MUKHA NIYA PARA MAGING VELVETY SOFT ANG KUTIS NIYA!!!
KASING KINIS DAW NG PETALS NG ROSE!!!
PIPO!!! MUKHANG FAKE 'YAN!!!
MGA TINIK NG ROSE ANG LUMALABAS SA MUKHA MO!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AY, NAGSAMA ANG ISANG ANTUKIN AT ISANG MAGUGULATIN! HI HI HI!
b
z!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Old age hasn't dulled Art Linkletter's ever-youthful wit

By Noelani Torre

IF anybody can be said to be growing old gracefully, then it would be Art Linkletter. This venerable dean of spontaneous humor just turned 90 recently and he's still as spry and funny as ever. Old age hasn't dulled his wit at all!

Genial and with a gift for drawing out humorous quotes from most anybody, Linkletter has long been a dominant force in radio and television.

Host

He was the host of two of the longest running shows in American broadcasting history, "Art Linkletter's House Party" and "People Are Funny."

"House Party" started as a CBS radio show before it was seen on CBS TV where it played for 25 years, five days a week and 52 weeks a year. It was nominated four times for an Emmy and it won one for best daytime show on television. Art Linkletter was a household name after that.

"People Are Funny" also started as a radio show before it proceeded to air weekly for 19 years on primetime at NBC. It was thrice nominated for an Emmy and was a consistent Top 10 rater.

Drug abuse

LINKLETTER. Ten honorary doctorates.

Linkletter also dedicates his time and energy to humanitarian work, concentrating particularly on fighting drug abuse and addiction. As a matter of fact, his dedication to numerous causes has earned him 10 honorary doctorate degrees from various universities and citations from many organizations. Art Linkletter doesn't just care about making people laugh, he also cares about *them*.

In the midst of all these projects, he has also found time to write—not one, but more than 20 books. His most famous work, "Kids Say The Darndest Things," topped the nonfiction bestseller lists for two years and is one of the Top 15 bestsellers in the history of American publishing. (There is now a show with that title, hosted by Bill Cosby, which more or less follows the format of Linkletter's program).

"I Wish I'd Said That! (My Favorite Ad-libs of All Time)" (Doubleday) is one of Linkletter's books, and here "the nation's favorite master of merriment" showers us with "a treasury of wisecracks, punchlines and off-the-cuff remarks" that make us wish we'd said them.

Quotes

This is vintage comedy stuff, with quotes collected from baseball dugouts, clergymen, and even the White House. "Ad-libs are remembered, treasured, and fondly quoted whenever show people get together," he writes in the Foreword. "But ad-libs are certainly not a special monopoly of show business. These spur-of-the-moment gems crop up in every walk of life, in every epoch, in all kinds of situations—the more dignified, stately, and pompous the occasion, the funnier the result."

And they are gems, indeed, especially for those of us who aren't as quick-on-the-draw as these ad-libbers. Some of these are already classics, such as Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree's famous retort when he was playing "King Richard III":

"'A horse! My kingdom for a horse!' he [Sir Herbert] cried. A cut-up in the peanut gallery yelled, 'Would a jackass do?' 'Certainly,' quoth Sir Herbert. 'Come down and present yourself.'" *(To be concluded)*

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Star-studded tribute to three National Artists staged tonight

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and ABS-CBN pay tribute to National Artists Lucio San Pedro, "Atang" de la Rama and Levi Celerio with a star-studded concert "Lagi Kitang Naaalala," to be staged at the CCP Main Theater. The concert had its first performance last night with additional shows tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. The show will be taped and aired on ABS-CBN at a later date.

The organizers have assembled some of the top performers from both the classical and pop world to join the 90-minute extravaganza.

The idea, says director Chris Millado, is to have a fusion of modern and classical music in the way the songs are arranged since most of the performers are pop singers. At one point, there will be 350 performers onstage, something that set designer Boni Juan has taken into consideration with his set design.

Although many of the performers are stage veterans, some are used to performing for TV so Millado had to keep reminding them during rehearsals to sing for Balcony 2 which has the farthest seats in the house. We asked him how he copes with the busy schedules of the artists and he had to admit that scheduling the stars was a perennial problem but he had been assured by his production manager from ABS-CBN that the performers would be there.

When we attended the press conference, Celeste Legaspi was mentioned as one of the performers but as in any concert of this magnitude, there were last minute changes. Celeste is no longer in the show. They were able to get Regine Velasquez to perform because her concert in Canada was canceled but that's another story. She will do "Lagi Kitang Naalala" and "Ugoy ng Duyan," Lani Misalucha was also scheduled to appear but she could not make it at the last minute.

Some of the highlights of the show are excerpts from three zarzuelas, "Dalagang Bukid," "Paglipas ng Dilim" and "Walang Sugat," as performed by Tanghalang Pilipino talents, Jaya and Elizabeth Ramsey in a duet of Levi Celerio's "Waray-Waray," and the Angono Symphonic Band performing the compositions of San Pedro.

There will be no narration but a sound and light show with San Pedro's "Jubilate" as musical background will precede the actual performances. Call 551-7930.

Jacob's nightspot

Entertainment producer and talent manager Jacob Fernandez admits that his newly opened nightspot at The Podium was inspired by Power Plant's Dish which offers different restaurants under one roof and a section for live performances. However, the ambience at The Forum is different in that it will have a classic Roman atmosphere replete with tall columns, flowing drapes, historical busts and a fountain.

Jacob asked friends Paolo Bediones and Jessica Rodriguez to be partners in his new venture with Wyngard Tracy as entertainment consultant.

The place will be open for lunch and dinner and offer an eclectic selection from Miro (Japanese), Palayok (Filipino), Kashmir (Indian), Golden Triangle (Thai), Andok's (Roasts) and A Dessert Experience.

In the evening, the country's top bands will perform along with DJ sessions for late-night cinemagoers. Paolo and his friends are scheduled to do shows every Wednesday.

Jerry Lewis is 76, going on 10

From page H1

Comic sparring partner

He's also approved the production of a TV movie on his long professional and personal relationship with Dean Martin, his comic sparring partner for many years.

Will his book reveal the reason why they ended their very popular comic tandem when it was at its zenith? No, says Jerry, that secret will remain with him to his dying day. The break-up must have hurt him like heck!

Asked what his favorite Jerry Lewis film is, he cheekily answers, "'Roberta.'" But he quickly withdraws the silly reply and settles for "The Nutty Professor," which Eddie Murphy reprised some years ago. (The original film may be re-released next year.)

Jerry's favorite screen comics? Stan Laurel and Charlie Chaplin. But he generously says that, in his view, Jim Carrey is "the best physical comedian to come along in 100 years." This is a great tribute that should make Carrey's *year*, but the young comic would have to add, "—aside from Jerry Lewis."

Antics

Carrey wouldn't be engaging in false humility, either, since he's revealed that, in his early days, all he had to so to get a laugh was to imitate the antics and comic contortions of his idol, Jerry.

Can his physical style of comedy be taught? Yes, says Jerry—but what can't be learned from any comedy workshop is the desire to be funny, to make people laugh.

Luckily for him (and for us), Jerry was born with that desire. He says, "The key to my longevity is the joy I've experienced in giving people pleasure." That's why he continued working even when he was suffering excruciating pain—much of which, incidentally, came as a result of all of the comic pratfalls he had to take to make people laugh!

Wonderful day

For non-comics who don't know how to take funny pratfalls, Jerry's advice to live a long and happy life is: "You've got to try to have a wonderful day everyday. Make today special!"

Also, "Keep the child in you alive!" That's why Jerry Lewis is 76, going on 10.

Final punchline: Larry King asks Jerry why he thinks the French have hailed him as one of the world's comic geniuses, a view not necessarily shared by film buffs in the States. Jerry's riposte: "Because they have very, very, *very* good taste!"

With chutzpah like that, nothing can get Jerry Lewis down!

The Naturally Sweet Way To Your Heart

Here's a delightful snack you can enjoy to your heart's content--fresh, mouthwateringly delicious California Grapes! Naturally sweet and enjoyable to eat, each berry is bursting with loads of healthy benefits!

We've always known that drinking wine is good for the heart. Recently, researchers from the University of Connecticut discovered that like wine and juice, California Grapes contain highly cardioprotective ***polyphenols***--disease-fighting phytonutrients such as resveratrol, anthocyanins, catechins and quercetin. They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.

In the same study, polyphenol-rich grapes helped improve blood flow, heart-pumping capacity and reduced the area of tissue death after a heart attack.

What's more, a second compound in grapes called ***pterostilbene*** (terro-STILL-bien) has been found to have cancer-preventing properties!

Agricultural Research Service (USA) research chemist Agnes Rimando at Oxford, Mississippi discovered that pterostilbene possesses similar chemoprotective qualities as that of resveratrol, another compound found in grapes. However, unlike resveratrol, this newly discovered compound is already known to possess anti-diabetic properties, and shows strong inhibitory activity against breast cancer cell lines.

With all these heartwarming news about the healthy benefits of California Grapes, treat yourself to a fresh bunch everyday--whether as an ingredient in your favorite dish or as a refreshingly sweet snack!

So follow your heart and satisfy your sweet tooth! Snack on hearty servings of naturally healthy California Grapes today!

They found that the polyphenols in whole, fresh California Grapes are effective antioxidants, and protect the heart and blood vessels against oxidative tissue damage, similar to the well-known effects of wine.

Buy any California Grapes variety from participating supermarkets and get a coupon for a free health check-up.

Present this coupon at the California Grapes Health Station on these dates and locations:

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Aug. 27 to Sept. 1, 2002

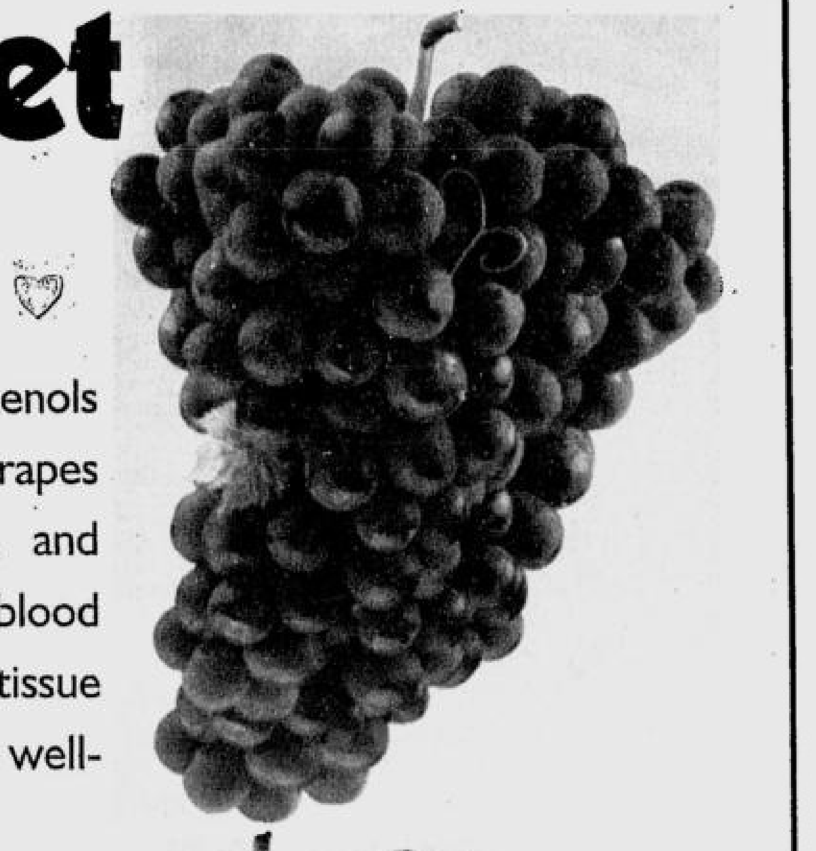
SM City North Edsa
Ground Flr., Centermall
Sept. 4 - 9, 2002

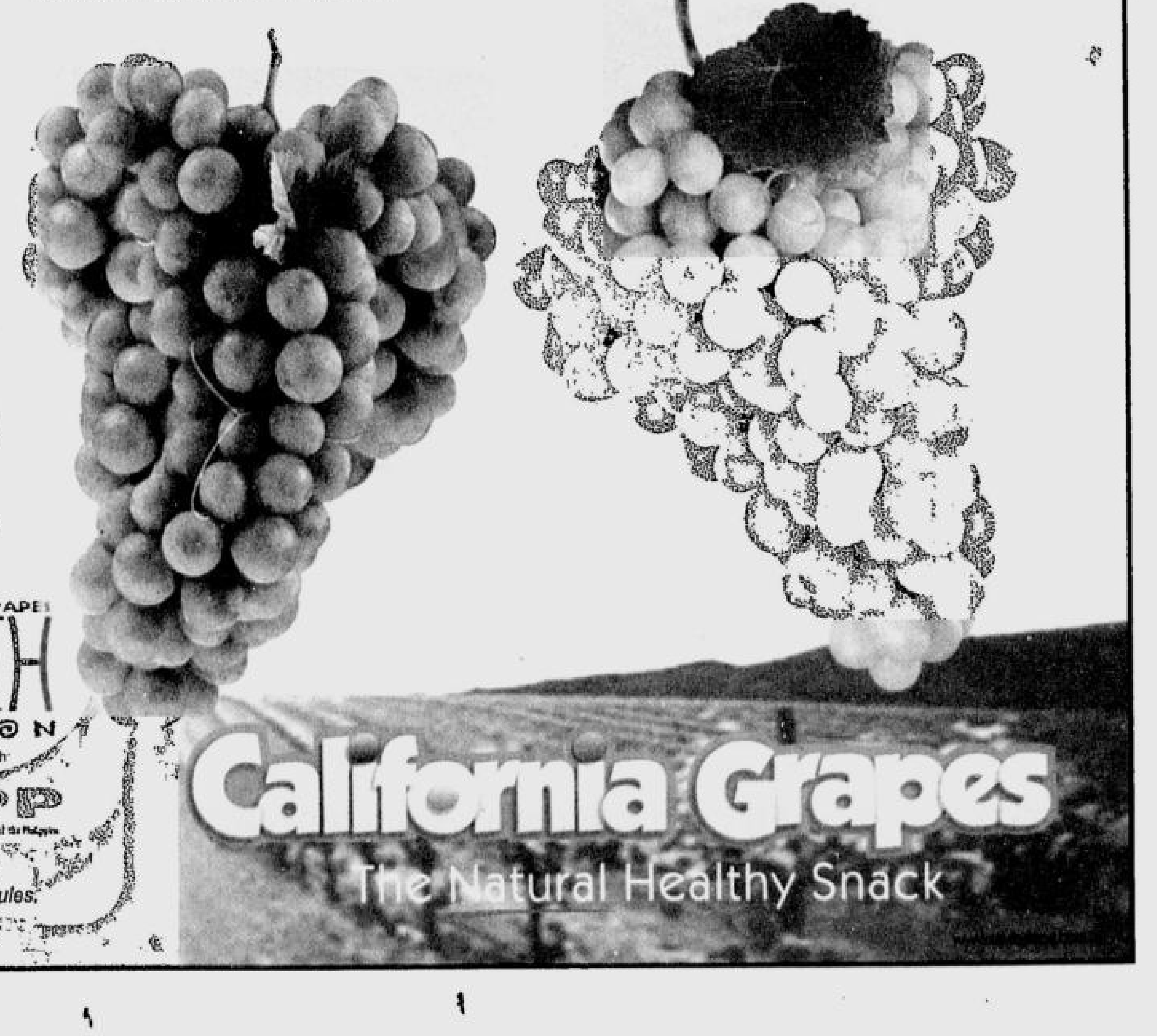
Promo period is from Aug. 27 to Oct. 9, 2002.
See leaflets for details.

CALIFORNIA GRAPES HEALTH Station
in cooperation with FPP

Watch out for other schedules.

California Grapes
The Natural Healthy Snack





Chan, Lopez and Damon topbill new productions

CHAN. Injured.

CAMPBELL. Radical shift.

By Nestor U. Torre

JACKIE Chan may now be a bankable star in Hollywood, but he hasn't forgotten his roots in Asian films. That's why, after chalking up yet another mainstream hit with "Rush Hour 2," Chan went back to shooting "High Risk" with some Chinese co-stars.

Screwball wit

In "High Risk," Chan combines his trademark action sequences and screwball wit. He plays a Chinese millionaire-playboy, and shares scenes with Qi Shu and Tony Leung.

While shooting the movie, Chan suffered some injuries, but that didn't stop him from giving his daring action scenes his best. Then it was back to Hollywood for him, to wrap up work on his new US film, "The Tuxedo."

Suspense thriller

For her part, singer-dancer Jennifer Lopez topbills the film, "Enough," a suspense thriller in which she plays a young wife and mother whose husband turns into a dangerous ogre when she tries to end their marriage.

In their physical and psychological war of nerves, she is initially the loser. But she toughens up for the sake of her child, and turns into a fighter who gives as much as she takes form her predatory spouse.

Husband from hell

J.Lo's husband is being played by Billy Campbell, who trades in his nice-guy persona to do justice to his "husband from hell" role in this production.

This is a radical career shift for Campbell, whose leading-man chances may be affected by this villainous turn. But the actor feels it's high time for him to demonstrate his versatility—and let the casting chips fall where they may.

Amnesia

Meanwhile, "The Bourne Identity" is Matt Damon's own opportunity to prove that he's got it in him to play a spy in a dynamic thriller. In the film, his characters suffers from amnesia, and is surprised to see so many villainous types out to get him.

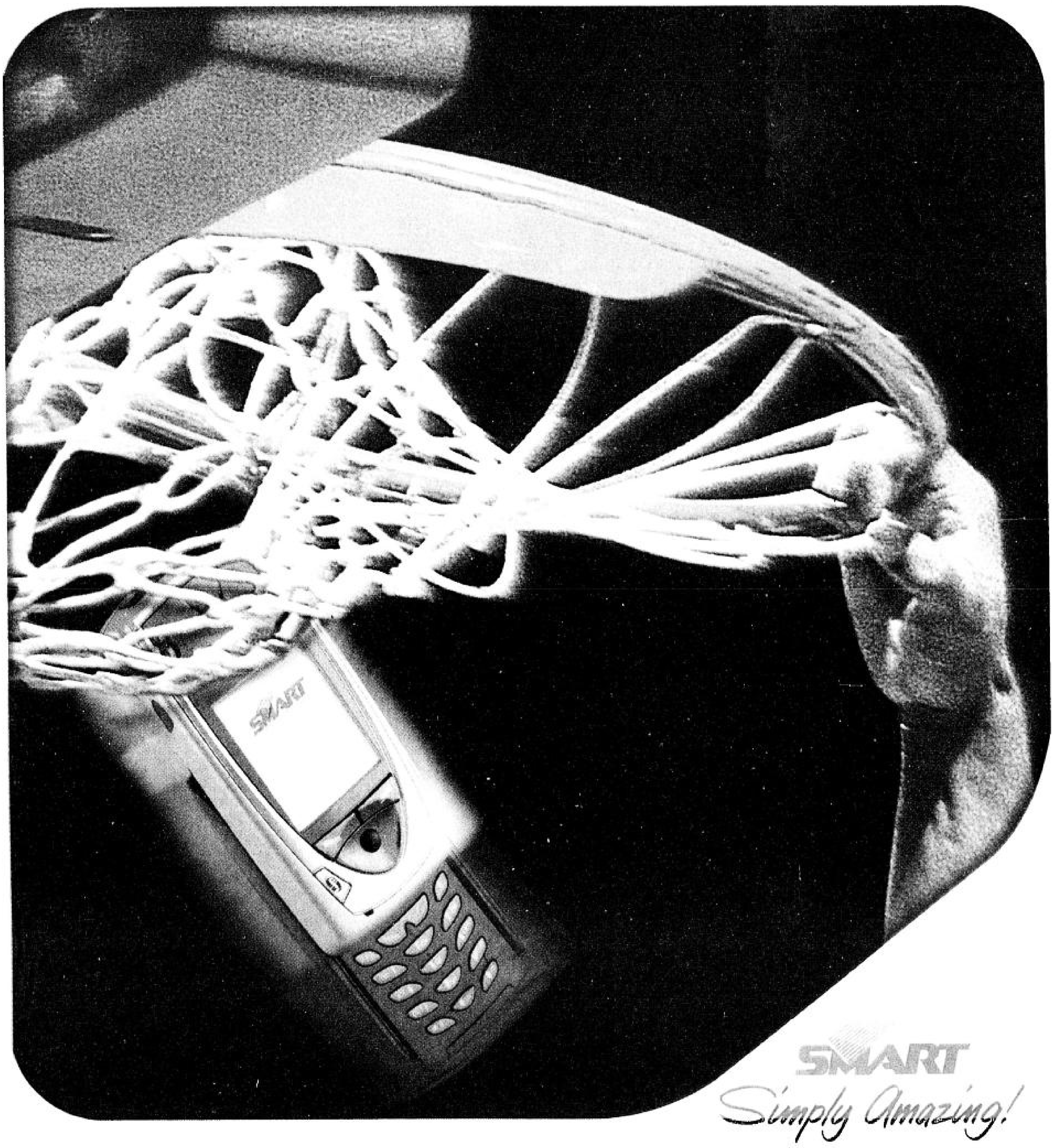
Also coming on strong in the espionage thriller is Franka Potente, who first garnered a lot of attention in the German film, "Run Lola Run." In "The Bourne Identity," she plays the woman who agrees to drive Damon to Paris for a hefty fee, not knowing that she's signed her own death warrant.

Franka's take on her screen character: "I like the pragmatic way she deals with all the crazy stuff that's thrown at her. I get so annoyed with the stereotyping of women in action films, but I think my character undermines all that."

Contemporary twist

As for habitual hitmaker Adam Sandler, his new starrer is "Mr. Deeds," a traditional rags-to-riches tale with a contemporary twist. He starts out as the hardworking and affable owner of a small pizza place. Before he knows it, however, his entire world is spun on its axis and his life gets on the fast track when he inherits $40 *billion* from a long-lost relative.

Will all that money corrupt our true-blue hero? At first, it does. But he survives the psychological crisis and gets his head on straight again in time to foil a slick corporate mogul's plan to shaft him and get his hands on all that money. Winona Ryder and Peter Gallagher co-star.



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RPN9 :	SOLAR :
Question 1 between 7pm - 8pm	Question 1 between 7pm - 8pm
Question 2 between 8pm - 9pm	Question 2 between 8pm - 9pm
	Question 3 between 9pm - 10pm
	Question 4 between 10pm - 11pm

FIBA 2002 WORLD
SOLAR
Information Gateway
Solar Entertainment Corporation

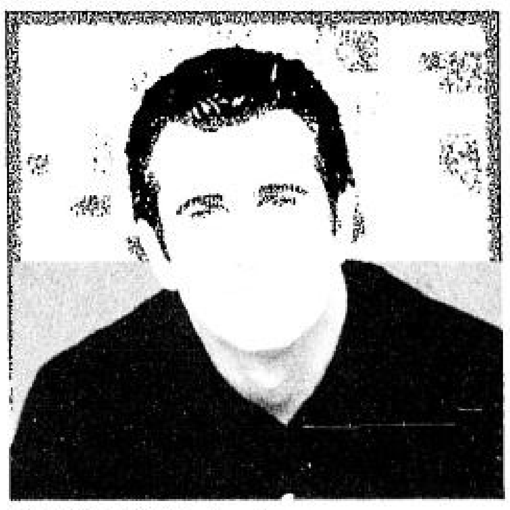
SUMMARY OF SOLAR SPORTS SPECIALS

PROGRAM	CHANNEL	BROADCAST SCHEDULE	DATE
China vs Germany	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	30-Aug
USA vs Algeria	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	30-Aug
Spain vs Yugoslavia	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	31-Aug
USA vs Germany	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	31-Aug
Canada vs Yugoslavia	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 7 PM - 9 PM	1-Sep
USA vs China	RPN/SOLAR	9 PM - 11 PM	1-Sep
TBD	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	3-Sep

PROGRAM	CHANNEL	BROADCAST SCHEDULE	DATE
USA vs TBD	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	3-Sep
TBD	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	4-Sep
USA vs TBD	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	4-Sep
TBD	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	5-Sep
USA vs TBD	RPN	7 PM - 9 PM	5-Sep
Quarterfinals 2	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	6-Sep
Quarterfinals 1	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	6-Sep

PROGRAM	CHANNEL	BROADCAST SCHEDULE	DATE
Quarterfinals 4	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 9 PM - 11 PM	7-Sep
Quarterfinals 3	RPN/SOLAR	7 PM - 9 PM	7-Sep
Semi-Finals 2	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 7 PM - 9 PM	8-Sep
Semi-Finals 1	RPN/SOLAR	9 PM - 11 PM	8-Sep
3rd - 4th Place Final	SOLAR	1 PM - 3 PM / 6 PM - 8 PM	9-Sep
Championship	RPN/SOLAR	8 PM - 10 PM	9-Sep

* as of Aug 23



GIBSON. Still the top draw.

'Signs,' 'Greek Wedding' lead box office

LOS ANGELES—Mel Gibson's "Signs" remained the top box-office draw over the long Labor Day weekend, taking in $17 million.

The sleeper hit "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" grossed $14.8 million to climb to the No. 2 spot, its best weekend yet in a five-month run that has seen the low-budget romance climb the box-office charts week after week.

Top 20 movies

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Monday last week, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Tuesday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Signs," Disney, $17 million, 3,437 locations, $4,959 average, $195.6 million, five weeks.
2. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," IFC Films, $14.8 million, 1,619 locations, $9,147 average, $82.6 million, 20 weeks.
3. "XXX," Sony, $13.1 million, 3,536 locations, $3,707 average, $123.9 million, four weeks.
4. "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams," Miramax, $8.3 million, 3,250 locations, $2,546 average, $70.1 million, four weeks.
5. "fear dot com," Warner Bros., $7.1 million, 2,550 locations, $2,779 average, $7.1 million, one week.
6. "Austin Powers in Goldmember," New Line, $7.07 million, 2,506 locations, $2,821 average, $203.5 million, six weeks.

'Blue Crush'

7. "Blue Crush," Universal, $5.6 million, 2,820 locations, $1,975 average, $34.7 million, three weeks.
8. "Serving Sara," Paramount, $4.4 million, 2,174 locations, $2,017 average, $11.9 million, two weeks.
9. "The Good Girl," Fox Searchlight, $3.8 million, 667 locations, $5,704 average, $7.5 million, four weeks.
10. "Road to Perdition," DreamWorks, $3.5 million, 1,763 locations, $2,002 average, $99.3 million, eight weeks.
11. "One Hour Photo," Fox Searchlight, $3.3 million, 164 locations, $20,282 average, $3.8 million, two weeks.
12. "Undisputed," Miramax, $3.2 million, 1,117 locations, $2,882 average, $9.1 million, two weeks.
13. "Simone," New Line, $2.9 million, 1,920 locations, $1,489 average, $8.1 million, two weeks.
14. "Blood Work," Warner Bros., $2.8 million, 1,751 locations, $1,572 average, $24.1 million, four weeks.

'Possession'

15. "Possession," Focus Features, $2.6 million, 614 locations, $4,183 average, $6.5 million, three weeks.
16. "The Master of Disguise," Sony, $2.4 million, 1,432 locations, $1,644 average, $37.4 million, five weeks.
17. "Lilo & Stitch," Disney, $1.73 million, 1,653 locations, $1,046 average, $142.1 million, 11 weeks.
18. "Stuart Little 2," Sony, $1.7 million, 1,149 locations, $1,470 average, $62 million, seven weeks.
19. "The Bourne Identity," Universal, $1 million, 467 locations, $2,150 average, $118.1 million, 12 weeks.
20. "Space Station," IMAX, $733,233, 62 locations, $11,826 average, $22.4 million, 2 weeks

A

Magtanim tayo ng puno!

Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 48

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Shirley's Pets Page 11

Playing with the Forest King

If you could be a creature of the forest, would you choose to be a mushroom, a butterfly, a snake or an eagle?

By Eline Santos

ALL these creatures and more took a stroll down the catwalk in "Tugon," a fashion-play based on the award-winning story "Are you the Forest King?" by Penny Reyes-Velasco.

A little boy named Bebong is on a quest to find the forest king. Along the way he comes across different forest creatures and learns how each is connected to the web of life.

He meets the frog who likes to eat bugs, the snake who likes to eat frogs, and the eagle who likes to eat snakes. Bebong also meets creatures of the sea and trees of the forest. Which one is the elusive forest king?

Penny, the Forest Queen

The author of the book says each part of the story was well-researched. Penny explains that the real forest king ought to be the trees because they are the dominant species that the forest ecosystem depends on.

"But here comes man, he thinks he's the forest king and he cuts everything, destroys everything..." Penny hopes to educate more people about the danger our environment is in and what we can do about it. "You can do something even if you're just five years old."

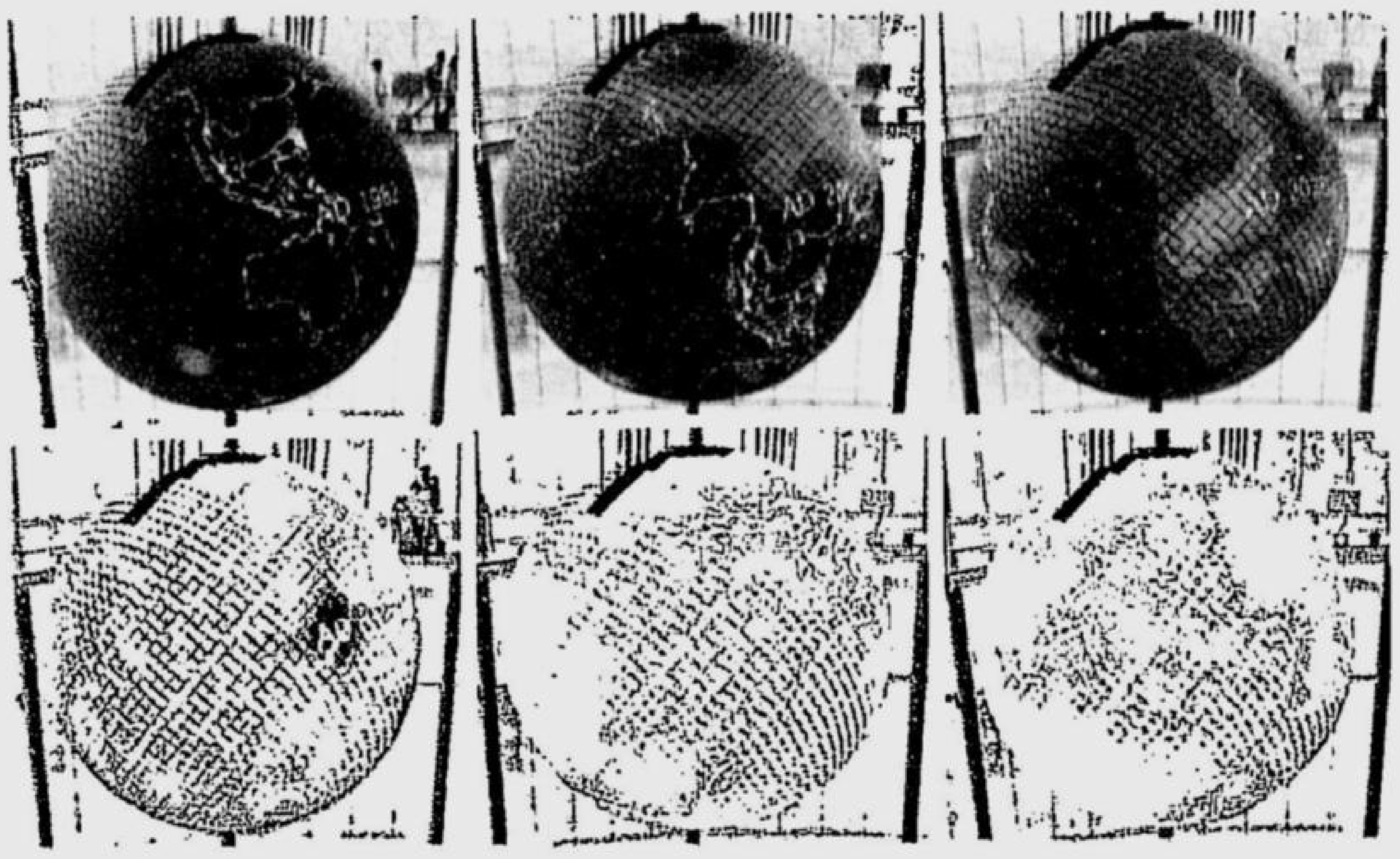
Practicing what she preaches, Penny segre-

Playing/ p. 4

WHICH ONE is the forest king: a wary Jehaad turtle, a regal Krishia eagle or Iaj the heron? CHIC DAYON

World Scope

Sturgis, USA
Sta. Rosa, California
Tokyo, Japan
Ayutthaya, Thailand



Earth Alert

THE Geo-Cosmos, a 6.5-meter diameter globe, shows the effects of global warming from 1982 to 2100 at the MeSci (National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation) in Tokyo. Red signifies a three-degree increase in the temperature of the air just above the surface from its level in 1990, while black represents no change. Nearly all the globe becomes red when the simulation reaches the year 2100. *AFP*

Motor Dog

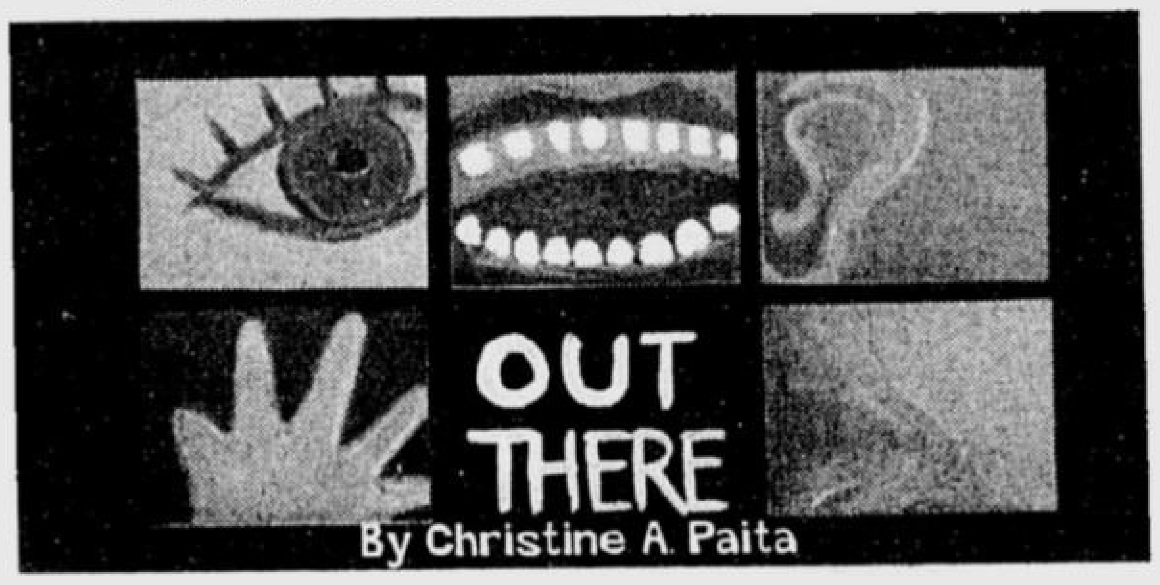
OTIS anxiously awaits the trip atop the Harley's fuel tank as owner Tim Hemmrich prepares to ride at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. *AP*

Bosom Buddies

PIEK, a four-year-old monkey, checks one-year-old Pom for lice at a temple in Ayutthaya, Thailand. Abandoned by their owners a year ago, they have since become playmates and taken care of each other. *Reuters*

Snoopy in Space

SNOOPY was aboard the space shuttle Discovery STS-105 with astronauts Daniel T. Barry, Scott Horowitz, Rick Sturckow, and Pat Furkestor. They signed Snoopy's helmet before presenting him to the recently opened Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in California. *AP*



Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshops

WRITING FOR CHILDREN. The UP Creative Writing Center and Adarna House announce the call for applications to the Barlaya Writing for Children Workshop which will be held from Oct. 10 to 12, 2002 at the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Adarna House. Interested applicants must submit 3 copies of their unpublished children's stories, in English or Filipino, and a short resume and send them to Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 13. For more info, please call Allan Popa at 372-3548/49.

Join the 9th RCBC
Kuwentong Kalikasan
Katha Ng Kabataan
Nationwide Short Story Writing Contest on Environmental Preservation

Contests

KUWENTONG KALIKASAN. Hey kids, do you have stories about Mother Earth? Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. invites all elementary students to join the 9th RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan, Katha ng Kabataan, a short-story writing contest on proper care of the environment. Kids may write their stories either in Filipino or English and submit them to any RCBC unibank or savings bank. Entry forms are available in all RCBC unibank and savings business centers, DepEd offices, and school principal's offices. Deadline for submission is on Nov. 23, 2002. For more info, please call RCBC Corporate Communications Dept. at 894-9479, 878-3344 or 894-9000 loc. 2711/2730.

QUIZ BEE. Watch elementary, high school and college students as they battle it out in the 23rd National Super Quiz Bee Metro Manila Division Championships at the Alabang Town Center promenade on Sept. 14 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The participants, coming from schools in Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque and Las Piñas, will compete on the following categories: Makabayan, Mathematics, Science and Technology, General Information and International Affairs. For more info on the schedule of district, division, and regional eliminations nationwide, please log on to www.quizbee.com or call 712-0682 or 410-1285.

ESSAY-WRITING. The Intellectual Property Office invites all elementary, high school, and college students to join its 2nd Nationwide Essay-writing Contest with the theme: "What does intellectual property mean to our national development?" Students must submit their entries in no more than 2000 words, either in English or Filipino for elementary and high school, and in English for college students. You may send your entries to The Director; Documentation, Information, and Technology Transfer Bureau; Intellectual Property Office, 351 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, or by email to DITTB@ipophil.gov.ph. For inquiries, please call 752-5450 to 65 locals 204 and 207, or log on to http://ipophil.gov.ph.

CHRISTMAS CARD. Get into the Christmas spirit! Sacred Heart School invites kids ages 3-12 to join its On-the-spot Christmas Card Drawing Contest. The contest will be held on Sept. 28, from 1-3 p.m., at the San Lorenzo Village covered court, #19 San Lorenzo Drive, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City. For information and registration, please call SHS in any of the following branches: Malabon, 447-3371; San Lorenzo, 815-3058; Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong City 636-1227; Forbes Park, Makati City, 840-5493; Caloocan, 334-1721, Glorietta 3, Makati City 893-9079, and Sun Valley, Parañaque, 776-0312.

Event

BOOK FAIR. Books, books, and more books! If you love them, then visit the 2002 Philippine Book Fair, ongoing until Sept. 8, at the Megatrade Hall, 5th Level, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Aside from browsing and buying your favorite titles, you can also check out other activities such as games and fun activities for children, storytelling, workshops, and launching of new books! Enjoy freebies and discounts as well. For more info on the schedule of activities, please log on to www.goodwillbookstore.com.

Cable Pick

REMEMBERING 9/11. Relive stories of courage and heroism in "Tales from Ground Zero" today, Sept. 7, at 9 p.m. on National Geographic Channel. Revisit the place that had once been the center of busy life in New York through photographer Steve McCurry's recorded images in "Through the Eyes," airs at 10 p.m.

WALK FOR A CAUSE. The Girl Scouts of the Philippines participated in the annual Alay Lakad last Sunday, Sept. 1, with the theme "Hakbang Mamamayan! Kinabukasan ng Kabataan." GSP is also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Concepcion R. Gonzalez National Program and Training Center in San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City, on Sept. 27. Other Girl Scouts, friends and supporters of GSP are invited to join the celebration.

Playing with the Forest King

(from page 1)

gates her trash and composts biodegradable waste at home.

"Penny is the true forest queen," says Chic Dayon, the person behind "Tugon." "She really, really loves plants." Chic asked Penny for permission to use her story and Penny kindly agreed.

The Forest on Stage

The highlight of the show is the creative costumes made by Bacolod-based designer Kelly Cuachon.

"My favorite is the eagle. I really tried to make him realistic," says Kelly. After reading "Are you the Forest King?," Kelly thought about the different characters and came up with some 30 designs, half of which were executed.

Interestingly, the eagle is an indicator of a healthy forest.

"The eagle needs a large territory to find food," Penny explains. So an eagle family in the forest means the area is large enough and healthy enough to support these beautiful birds of prey.

Played by Krishia Cabatay, the eagle costume is wonderfully done, from her sharp-eyed gaze down to her clawed feet.

Four-year-old Iaj Ricci Antonino enjoys playing the butterfly and flits around the stage kissing imaginary flowers while three-year-old Jehaad Moulhiem takes on the role of the *pawikan* or green turtle.

All the kids have fun while doing theater which is precisely why the group was named Kids at Play.

Lunduyan friends are not far behind with JR Bajaron as Bebong, John Paul Ordovez as the Ermitanyo, Joel Llanera as the snake, and Jose Garcia as the frog.

"Tugon" is a collaboration between Kids at Play Center for Arts and Development Co. and Lunduyan Foundation, Inc.

A former teacher and NGO worker, Chic organized Kids at Play to "give me a chance to help children through theater." The group offers classes in theater, visual arts, dance and other creative fields.

Lunduyan on the other hand is a group that works for the rights of the child. One of their programs is called "Dulaan sa Kalye," or street theater which they use to teach about children's rights. Working on "Tugon" fit perfectly since a peaceful, healthful environment is part of those rights they strive for.

A Storytelling Seed

Whether you see "Tugon" or not, buying the book is a good thing since it helps a tree get planted.

Penny is an avid storyteller and with her organization, Happy Earth, Inc., they go around trying to educate everybody about the environment.

After storytelling, there are actual earth care activities like tree planting, waste segregation, and composting. They have had so many invitations that Penny had to decline invitations. "We need more volunteer storytellers."

One of the *barangays* they visited for storytelling is now a site for their Adopt-a-Native-Tree project. Barangay Hugom in Batangas started a seed bank with 150 trees last December. Community members will adopt the trees when they are ready to be planted in their permanent home.

A fortunate discovery is that one of two endangered trees in the country grows in the area. The *Tectona Philippinensis* or Philippine teak is locally known as the Malabayabas because it resembles the guava tree.

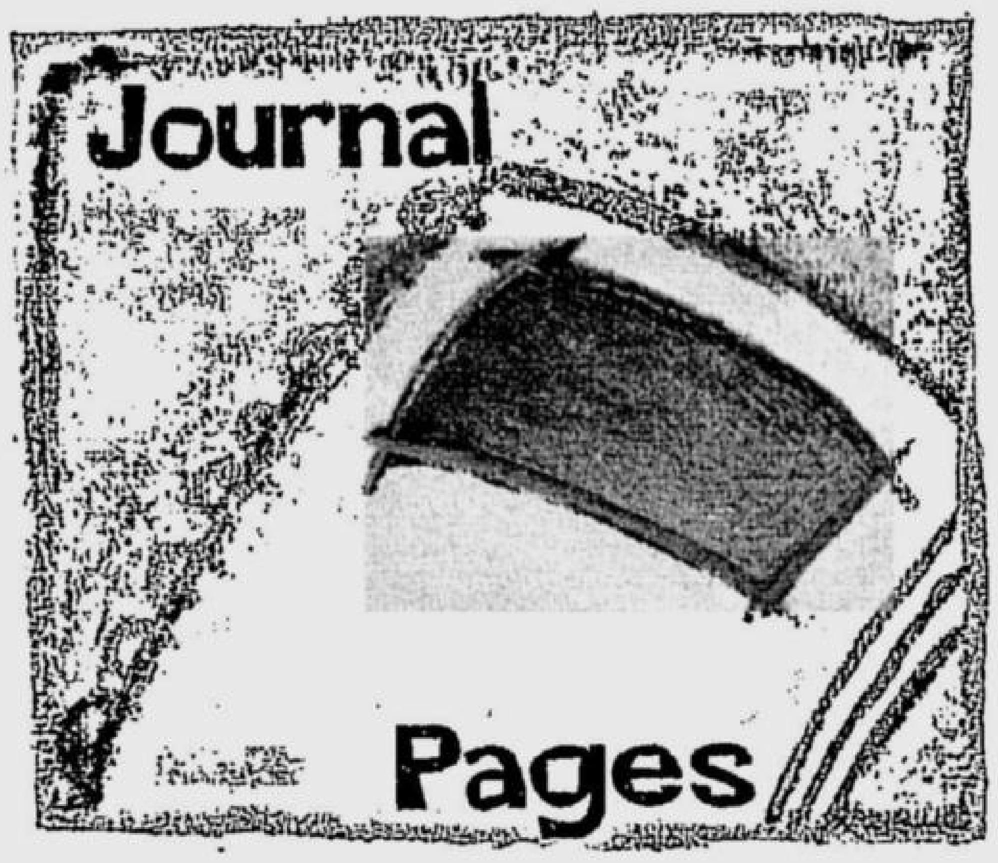
Working together with the National Museum, the group held a summit for the Philippine Teak last Sept. 4. Together with members of the Hugom community, the Barangay Council, Nexus Technologies and other government agencies, ways to help conserve the rich ecosystem in the area were proposed.

How's that for a seed of a book? While planting environmental awareness in our minds, real trees get planted around the country and get protected.

Which is why Happy Earth won the first international Environmental Communication Awards under the "institutions and initiatives" category. "Are you the Forest King?" linked with the Adopt-a-Native-Tree project really impressed the jury.

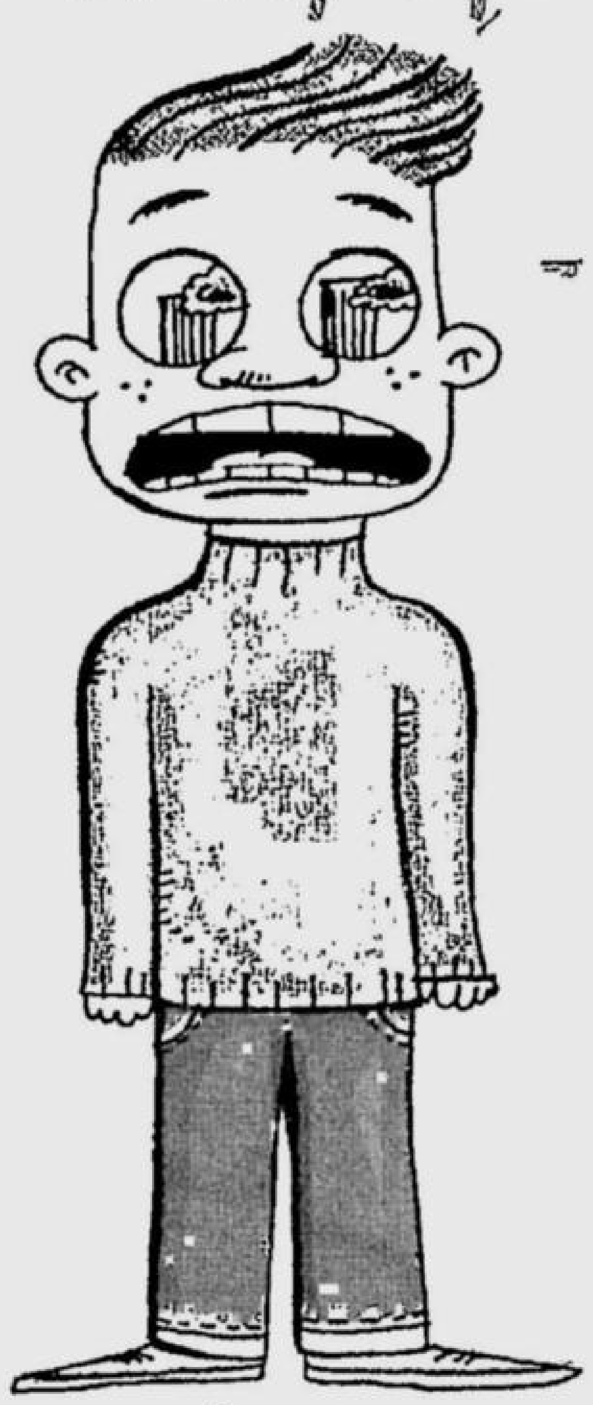
The awards are given by the Bellagio Forum on Sustainable Development and the European Natural Heritage Fund (Euronatur).

MADEMOISELLE BUTTERFLY. Iaj enjoys fluttering about to pollinate the flowers. CHIC DAYON



This is an exchange of email last year between cousins regarding the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City

Out of My Eyes



HELLO,

I went to school today as any other. I went through morning class as usual. Then at break at 9:30 a.m., they called us to a meeting. I thought that it would be a boring announcement as always. Now I wish that that was all it was. They told us that the World Trade Center had been destroyed by a pair of planes and that the Pentagon had experienced an explosion. I sat in disbelief. Girls in my grade cried. I worried about those who were already gone.

The thing I could not bear was that we were told to go on to classes. I could not concentrate. I was scared out of my mind, hoping that I could make a call to Tito Dave in New York and maybe even to Daddy right here. I knew that Tito Dave works in a commercial part of NYC, but I couldn't be sure. I was also not sure if Kuya Dindo and Angela were still in New York. I didn't know what to think except to wonder whether Daddy, Tito Dave, Tita Noreen, Kara, Miguel, Kuya Dindo, Angela and even Mommy were okay.

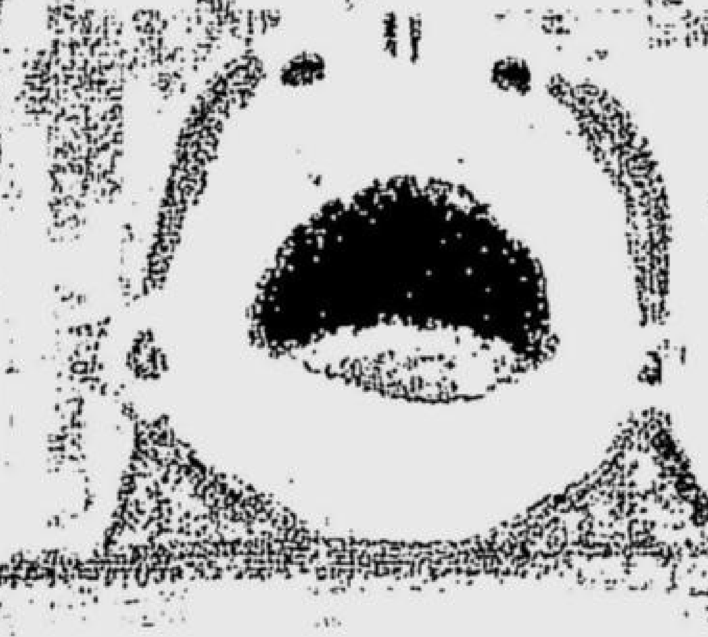
All I could do was sit through Physics. When lunch time came, I jumped from my seat to the phone but they wouldn't permit a call. I asked if I could see the reports on television instead and once again was denied. I had to restrain myself from screaming at my head of school. I

Out/ p. 12

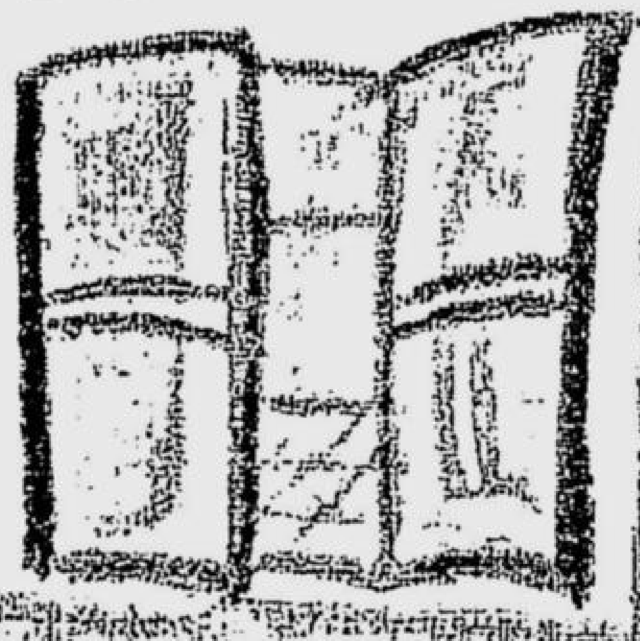
Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

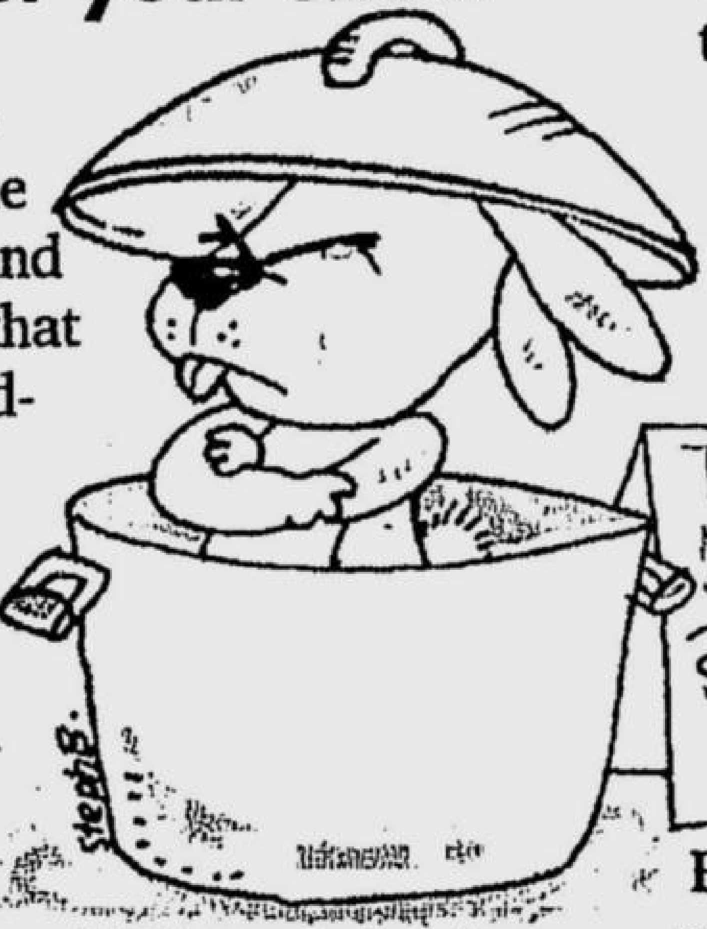
Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Don't kill animals for your show



THOUGH I don't consider myself young anymore, I find the JUNIOR INQUIRER interesting and very informative. I also believe that JI has a strong impact on its readers—the young and not-so-young alike. That's why I want everybody who are reading this to join me in protesting the use of dead animals in noontime shows. I saw this brutal act in a noontime show where a dead rabbit, steamed and all, was served to the contestants to be eaten, and a few feet away, one of the hosts watches while holding a live rabbit!

I'm protesting this act for it promotes brutality which is not a good example to kids watching and is an open display of negligence of the show's producers and management. Killing animals for a higher rating is not worth it. —**MARIA ANDROMEDA FERNANDO CRUZ**, 19, UP Diliman, Quezon City

Junior
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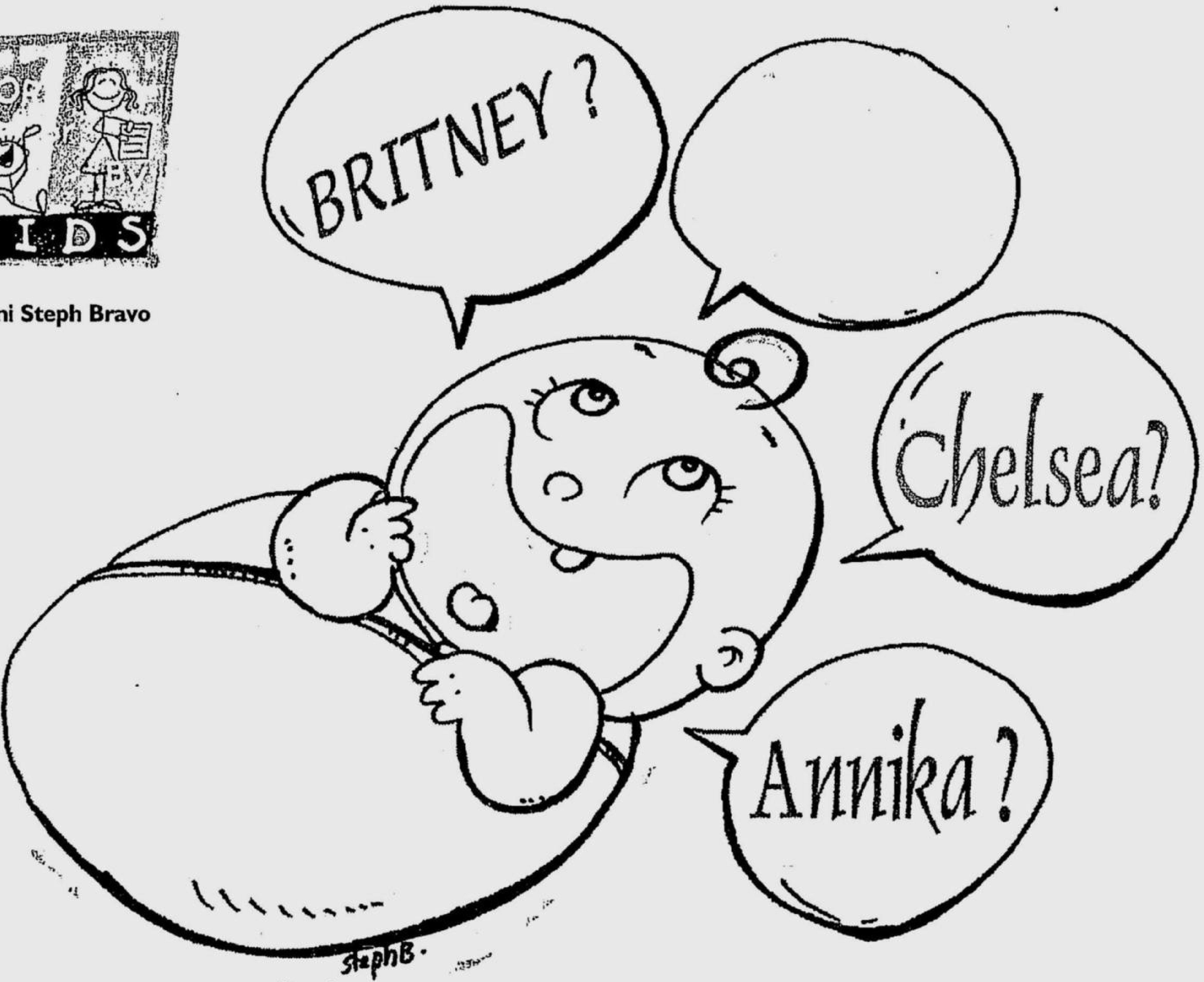
Guhit ni Steph Bravo


BRITNEY ?
Chelsea?
Annika ?
stephB.

Pangalan ni Bunso

Ni Sheila Patawaran-Ingco

Malapit nang manganak ang mahal kong Nanay,
Ano kayang pangalan ang aming ibibigay
Kay bunso na kay tagal naming hinintay,
Hindi na kami mapakali, pati na rin si Tatay.

Sabi ni Nanay, aming ibigay
Pangalan ng Santo sa lumang kalendaryo,
Dahil manganganak siya sa buwan ng Hunyo,
Bakit hindi kaya, ang pangalan ay Antonio.

Ang sabi ko naman, bakit hindi bigyan
Mga usong pangalan ng mga kabataan,
Samantha, Alexandra, o Ashley, kung babae,
Annika, Britney, o `di kaya ay Chelsea.

Sabi ni Tatay, parang `di bagay,
Masyado yatang banyaga ang aming ibibigay,
Paano kung kayumanggi at hindi maputi,
Ibig niya ay pangalan ng ating lahi.
Mungkahi ni Ninang, pagbigay ng pangalan
Mabuti pa ang dalawa para hindi parisan.
Mahirap daw ang mayroon kapangalan
Pagkuha ng pasaporte at NBI clearance.

Kami'y litung-lito at wala pang pangalan,
Humiram pa kami ng aklat ng pangalan
Upang malaman ang ibig sabihin
At baka magkamali kami sa aming pipiliin.

E, kung pangalan ng magulang na ipinagdugtong
Para walang kaparis, walang hinagpis?
Ang kay Yaya naman, palagi niyang tanong,
Ano nga ba ang pangalan ng anak ni Sharon?

Sino ba ang nag-imbento na ang pangalan ng ka-pamilya
Ay dapat nag-uumpisa sa pare-parehong letra?
Tulad naming magkakapatid, nag-uumpisa sa "A"
Si bunso, kailangan ganoon din daw ang simula.

Naku po, nahihilo na ang aming pamilya
At gusto ni Lola basta mayroong Maria,
Mahaba na ang ginawa naming listahan
E, kung pangalan ni bunso ay Baby na lamang.

*Si **Sheila** ay isang consultant at butihing ina nina Nicole, 13, Kevin, 10, at Kyle, 6 na buwang gulang.*

Aking Ir

Ni Christine Buenaventura

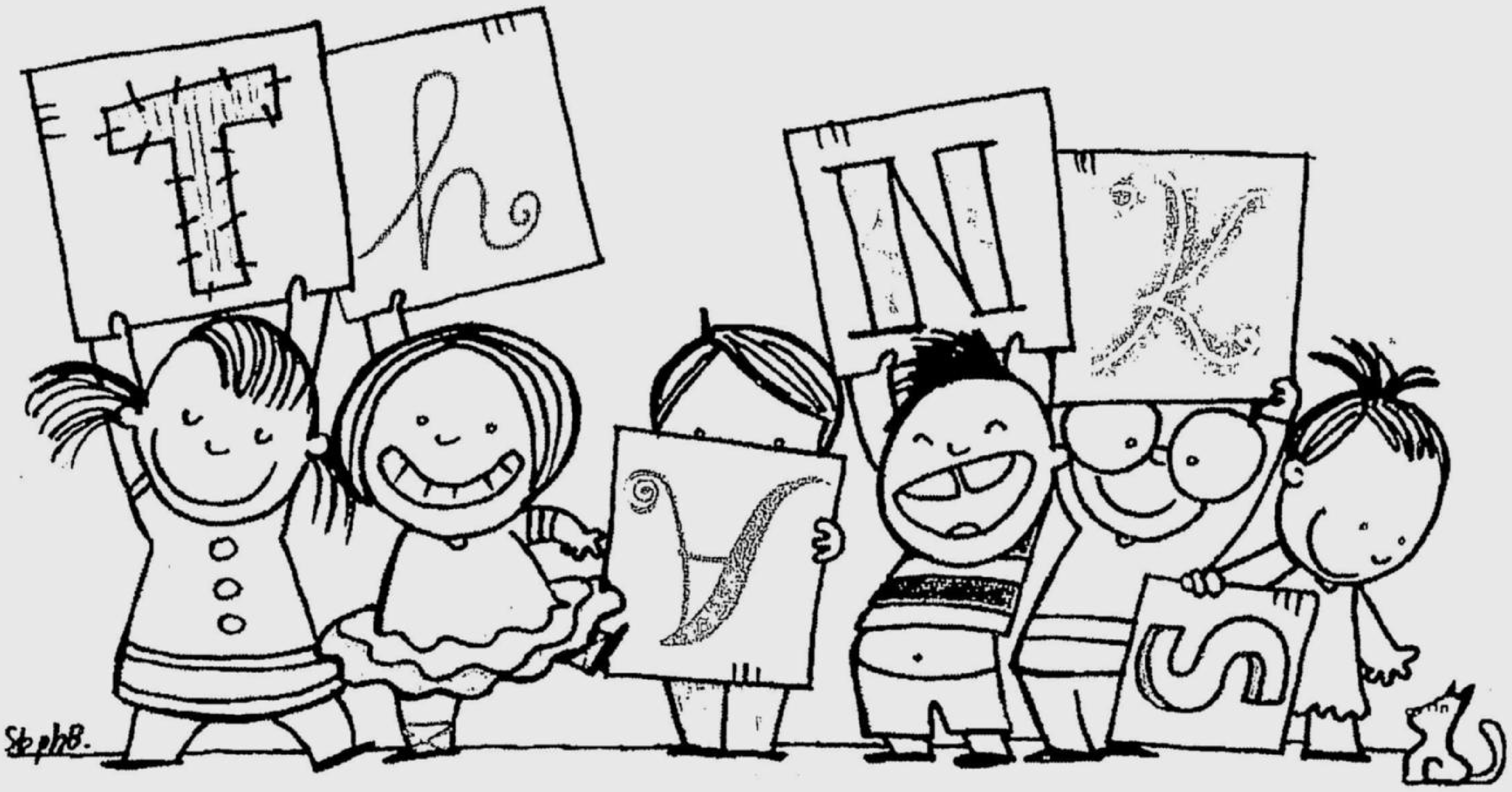
Mahal ko ang taong ito,
Siya ang nagsilang sa aki
Inaalagaan niya ako simu
Hanggang ngayon sa aki

Mga aral niya'y nakaukit
Na tumulong sa akin lum
Mga pagkakamali ko ay k
Sa landas ng buhay kasa

Pinakita niya sa akin kan
Lagi akong kasali sa kany
Kahit na siya ay sobrang
Gagawin niya lahat maka

Kaya, sa tulang ito, sana
na mahal na mahal ko ri
At wala nang ibang tao n
Nag-iisa lang siyang tao s

*Si **Christine** ay nag-aaral*



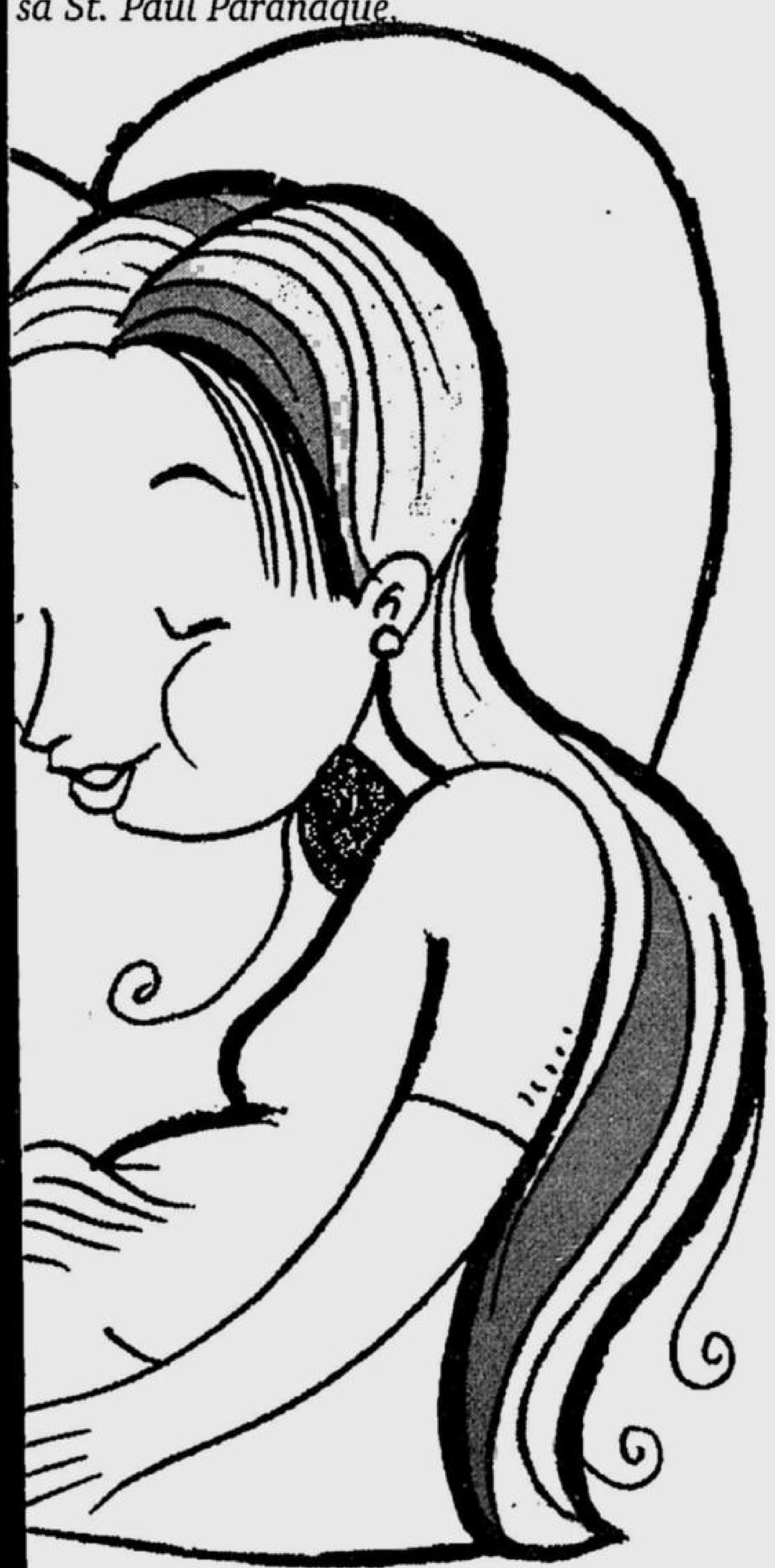
n dito sa mundo.
la sa pagkabata
ng pagtanda.

sa aking puso
aking isang mabuting tao
kanyang tinuwid
na ko siya sa pagtawid.

yang pagmamahal,
ang mga dasal.
nahihirapan
dama lang kami ng kasaganahan.

makita niya
siya
a papalit sa kanya.
a mundo ang aking ina.

sa St. Paul Paranaque.



A Child's Thanks

By Anna Graziella J. Barreno

Thank you,
For letting a child live in this world
You've watched this child grow
And knew her first word.

Thank you,
For letting this child know how to be loved
And for that
She knew how to give importance
And how to appreciate a parent's love.

Thank you,
For your time
In the ups and downs of her life
You are there guiding her by her side.

Thank you,
For providing for her needs
Even luxurious ones
You always give.

Thank you,
For the support
Now as a child and student
She'll do her best and give all her effort.

Thank you,
For being an inspiration
For then she will pursue her studies
And be the future of the nation.

Thank you,
For the hugs and kisses
Your warm hug and sweet kisses
Which pleases her heart.

Thank you,
For everything
For providing
All the things that I needed
Especially your love
The best of all above
Thank you, mother.
Thank you.

***Anna**, 12, is a freshman at Quezon City Science High School.*

***Steph** is JI's favorite artist.*

Jessu, Boy Genius

He has a high IQ of 138 and already walks under the spotlight, but in the end, the boy just want to have fun

By Eline Santos

Kids'r'rrific

IF he can be any cartoon character, 5-year-old Jessu Ruz Trinidad would pick Dexter from "Dexter's Laboratory" hands down, "because I'm like Dexter. He's a good boy, intelligent and scientific."

Jessu knows the order of the nine planets in the solar system. He also knows 24 inventors and their inventions.

"Who invented the telephone?" his mom Esther asks.

"Alexander Graham Bell," Jessu replies.

"Who invented the light bulb?"

"Edison!" Jessu grins.

It's a game they often play together.

Like Dexter, Jessu also has an older sister. Her name is Artroy.

"My sister is like DeeDee," Jessu smiles, "but the good version, not the naughty version," he is quick to clarify.

Together with his Ate Art, Jessu plans to be an inventor as well. They have a love potion project which Jessu says will bring an end to "boxing." It's made from "a chemical coming from the heart."

"Ate Art will mix the love potion in Pepsi. I will mix the love potion in Sprite." Afterwards, Jessu proposes giving the potion-laced sodas to "persons not giving love. When they drink it, they will love." Thus, the Trinidad siblings would have achieved world peace!

Jessu also would like to invent a magical chair. "When you press the buttons, it will fly." The chair is equipped with a seatbelt for safety, and with his invention, Jessu plans to visit "Singapore, because we have not yet gone there."

After some thought, Jessu decides Ireland is a good place to visit too. "I'm going to go there by myself because I'd like to see Westlife, not in TV but for real!"

His favorite Westlife song is "Bop Bop Baby" and among the band members, he likes Nicky Byrne best.

In Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (JASMS) where Jessu is in junior kinder, he plays "starfighters" together with his friends. The team members include Martin who is the green starfighter, Patricia in pink, Pacholo in red and Jessu in blue.

Jessu describes his superpowers as "jumping high in the ceiling and tumbling up there."

Jessu enjoys coloring, practicing writing and reading books. He also likes the floor puzzles at school. What is perhaps unusual is Jessu does his homework as soon as he gets home. "I like assignments," he says.

"To all kids out there, remember that God loves you all the time... and be more like me!" Maybe more Dexter-mind-alikes would help speed up that love potion project.

DEMONSTRATING his knowledge of the solar system, Jessu bagged the grand prize in the SM Supermalls Star Club 2002.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

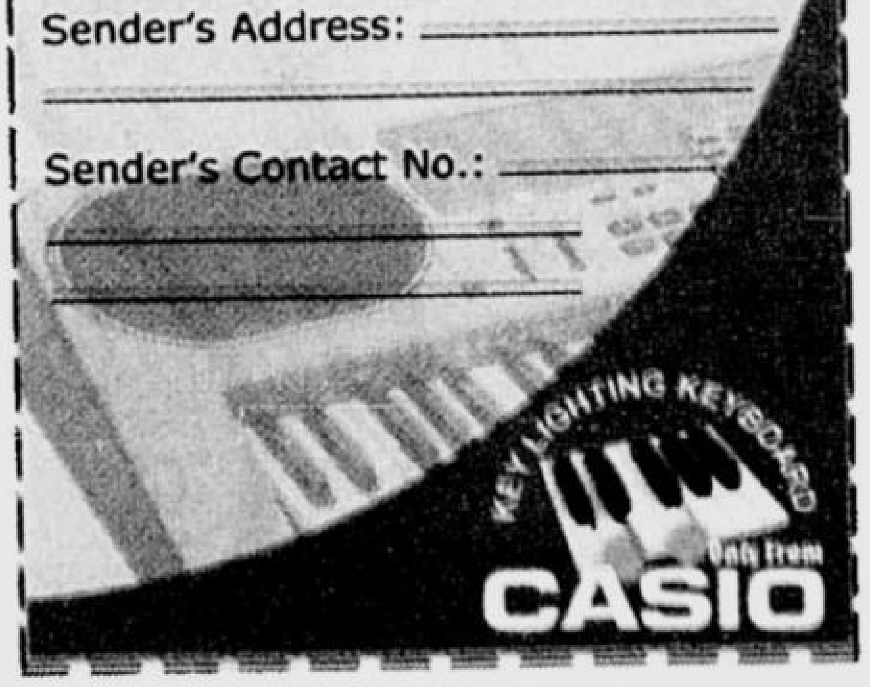
Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.:



WHERE she once was a puppeteer, Rose now plays Lola Priming in the educational program "Alikabuk."

ROGER CARPIO

One Cool Lola

The voice behind some of our favorite puppets and cartoon characters now performs up front

By Mae Astrid Tobias

WHEN Rose Nalundasan was invited to to audition for a show in "Eskwela ng Bayan," she thought it was going to be just like her old job acting behind the scenes. But she couldn't have been more wrong.

You see, Rose is primarily a voice actress. She can play any kind of voice using any kind of emotion or character. Her skills were honed by her long experience working in radio plays.

In the '80s she landed a job in "Batibot" as a voice actress and puppeteer. There, she lent her voice and breathed life to so many unforgettable characters. Do you remember Sitsiritsit's partner, Alibangbang? How about Gingging's older sister Ningning? Who can ever forget Manang Bola and her *perlas na bilog*?

That's right. One person did them all and that was Rose. Quite recently, she also did the voices of Bubbles in the Filipino-dubbed "Powerpuff Girls," Mojari in "Mojacko," and even Patricia in the soap opera, "Betty La Fea."

This time, Rose has a new role and the spotlight is on her (not on a cartoon or a puppet). She plays the character Lola Priming in the educational program, "Alikabuk." Together with her grandson, Jomel, they teach kids how to write, read and speak better Filipino.

"I enjoy my role as Lola Priming," says Rose, even though she is still too young to be a grandmother. She is actually a mother of four boys, the eldest is 17 and the youngest is 10.

"It reminds me so much of Manang Bola," she notes. "Both are cheerful and lovable." Not only that, she also shares that she loves working with her co-actor, Christian, who plays Jomel in the show.

For Rose, acting in front of the camera can be quite different from acting behind the scenes.

"Being a puppeteer was very difficult," Rose shares. She described how it was so hot hiding underneath a table. She would often find sweat dripping all over her face and her arms getting tired from holding up the puppets for so long.

On the other hand, Rose shares that as a puppeteer, she didn't have to memorize her lines because she was hidden. This time, it's different acting in front of the camera. She is now forced to memorize so many long dialogues.

Now that she is acting in front of the camera, that doesn't mean she won't be voice acting again. In fact, if you ask Rose to be a voice actress of another cartoon character, she would be saying yes immediately.

That's because she loves doing it.

"*Parang naglalaro*," she admits.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an adult known as cool.
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _______________.
He/She is _________ years old and
is my __________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
5)____________________;

My nominee lives a____________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
or send him/her an e-mail at ____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________________.
I'm__________years old.
My address is____________________.
You may call me at____________________.

¿Thinkathon?
BY BONG [illegible]

SPELLING BEASTS

AS in the animal soup we served sometime ago, the nature of today's quiz is the creature's correct name. Can you tell which one it is in each number?

1. • chimpanzi • chimpanzee • chimpunzee
2. • raccoon • racoon • rackoon
3. • chipmonk • chipmank • chipmunk
4. • cayote • coyote • cuyote
5. • porcufine • porcupine • porcoupine
6. • parakeet • parrakeet • parrakit
7. • opposum • oppossum • opossum
8. • boa constructor • boa constrictor • boa contractor
9. • hippopatamus • hippopotamus • hippopatimus
10. • dachshund • dashshund • dachshound
11. • tarrantula • tarantulla • tarantula
12. • chameleon • chamelion • chamileon

Answers:

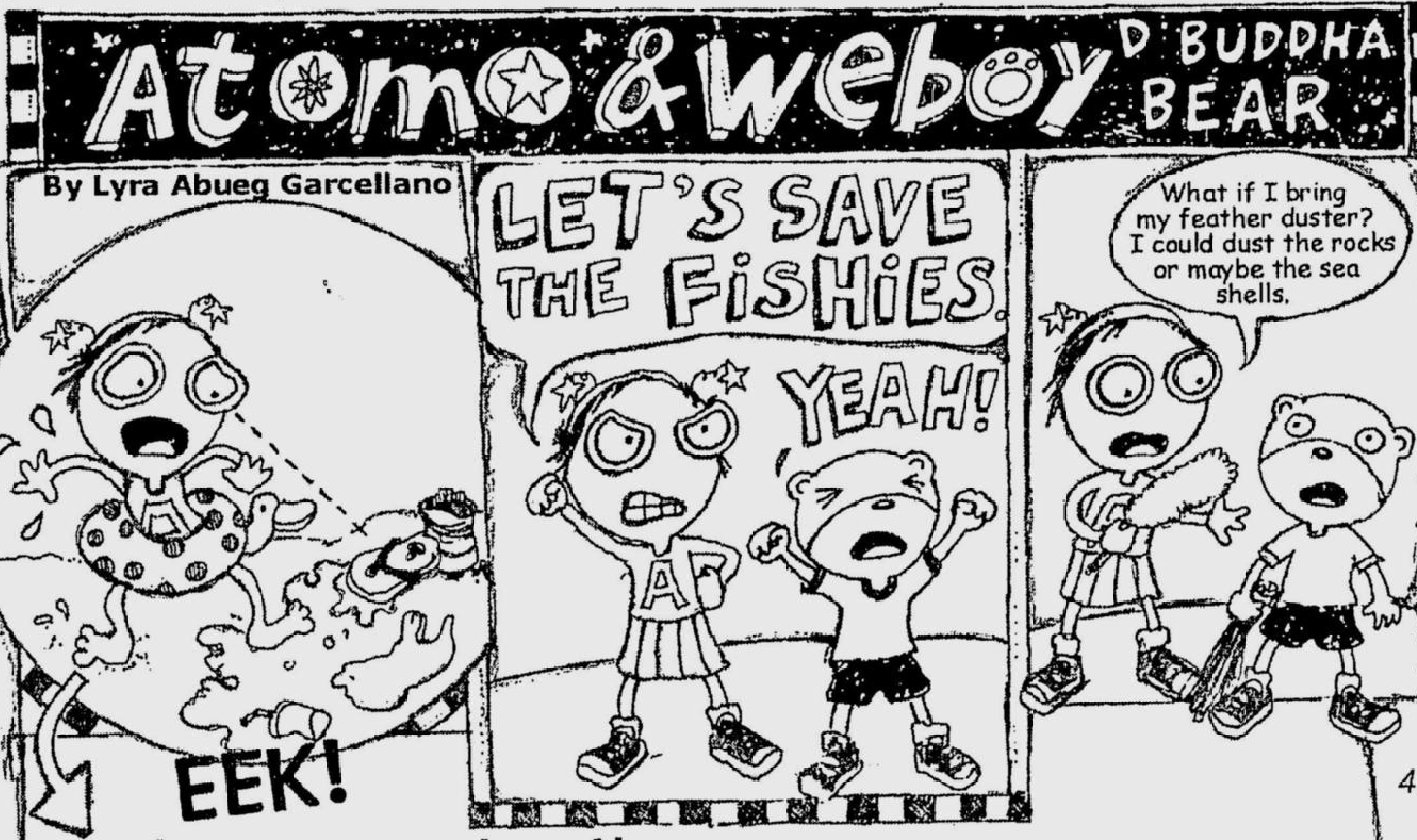
1. chimpanzee
2. raccoon
3. chipmunk
4. coyote
5. porcupine
6. parakeet
7. opossum
8. boa constrictor
9. hippopotamus
10. dachshund
11. tarantula
12. chameleon

Ratings:

superbrain!
11-12

excellent!
9-10

good!
6-8


Atomo & Weboy D Buddha Bear
LET'S SAVE THE FiSHiES.
YEAH!
What if I bring my feather duster? I could dust the rocks or maybe the sea shells.
EEK!

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

It sucks to see so much trash! How will the sea creatures breathe, swim and live in dirty water?!! Save the fishies! Save our seas! Clean up the coastlines. Stop throwing your trash just about anywhere.

DIRTY BEACHES +
DIRTY WATERS +
STINKY TRASH =
NO MORE SWIMMING FOREVAH!

How can you help?

*1. Throw trash **ONLY** in garbage cans. Don't throw stuff on the street,*
out the window,
on the grass,
in the bus
in canals...

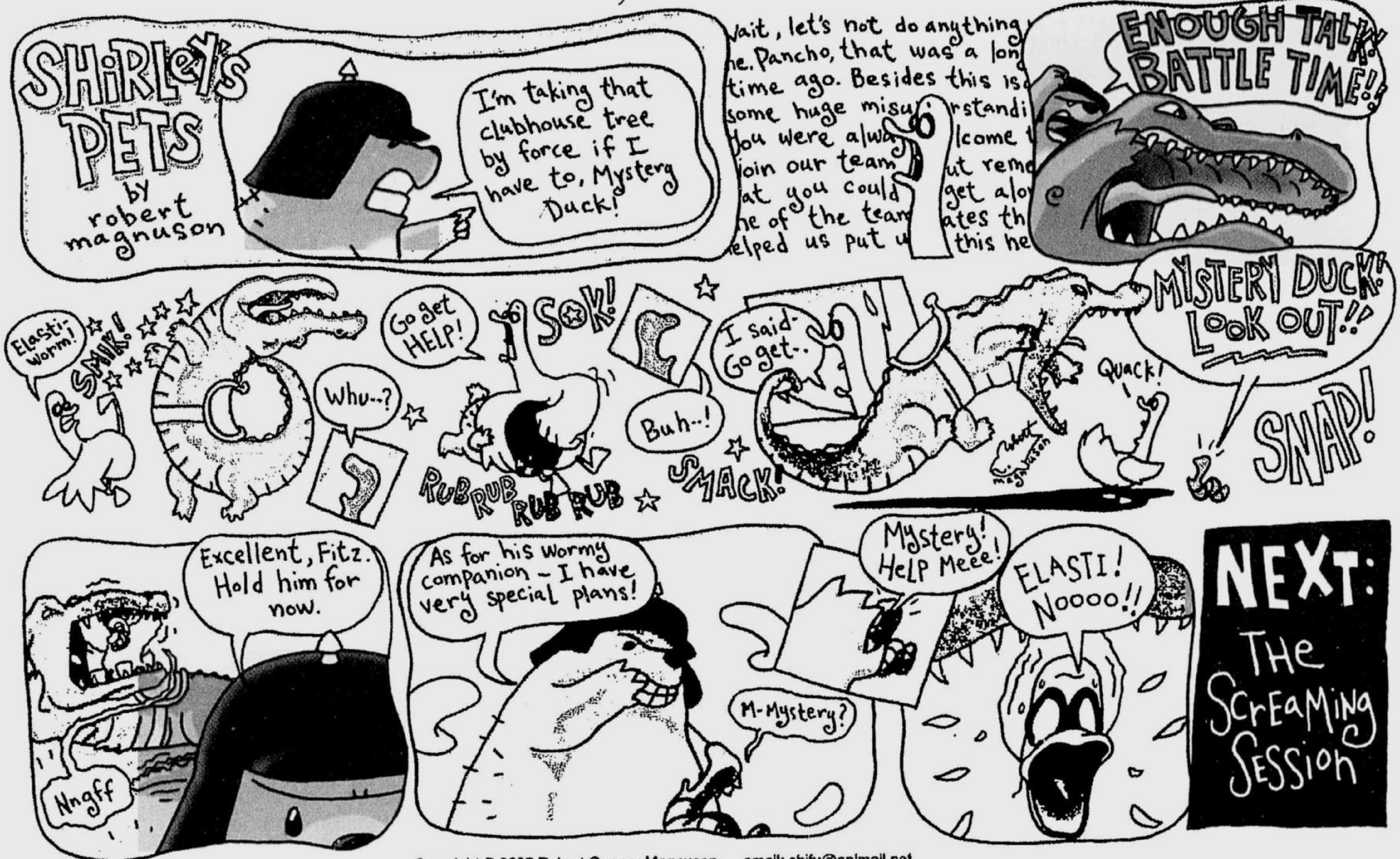
2. If there aren't any trash cans around you, hold on to the stuff that you need to throw away until you see one.

3. Stop spitting. It's ICKY!

*4. **RE-USE and RE-CYCLE** your things.*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2002's the International Coastal Clean up Day! Save the shores! Help clean up.

Last Episode: Pancho reveals the reason for his group's attack on the animal heroes - he intends to take over the hero clubhouse tree! Only Mystery Duck and Elasti-Worm stand in his way...


SHIRLEY'S PETS
by robert magnuson
I'm taking that clubhouse tree by force if I have to, Mystery Duck!
ait, let's not do anything
e. Pancho, that was a lon
time ago. Besides this is
some huge misu rstandi
You were alwa lcome t
join our team ut reme
at you could get alo
ne of the team ates th
elped us put u this he
ENOUGH TALK! BATTLE TIME!!
Elasti-worm!
SMIK!
Whu..?
Go get HELP!
SOK!
RUB RUB RUB RUB
Buh..!
SMACK!
I said-Go get..
Quack!
MYSTERY DUCK! LOOK OUT!!
SNAP!
robert magnuson
Excellent, Fitz. Hold him for now.
Nngff
As for his wormy companion - I have very special plans!
M-Mystery?
Mystery! Help Meee!
ELASTI! Noooo!!
NEXT: The Screaming Session

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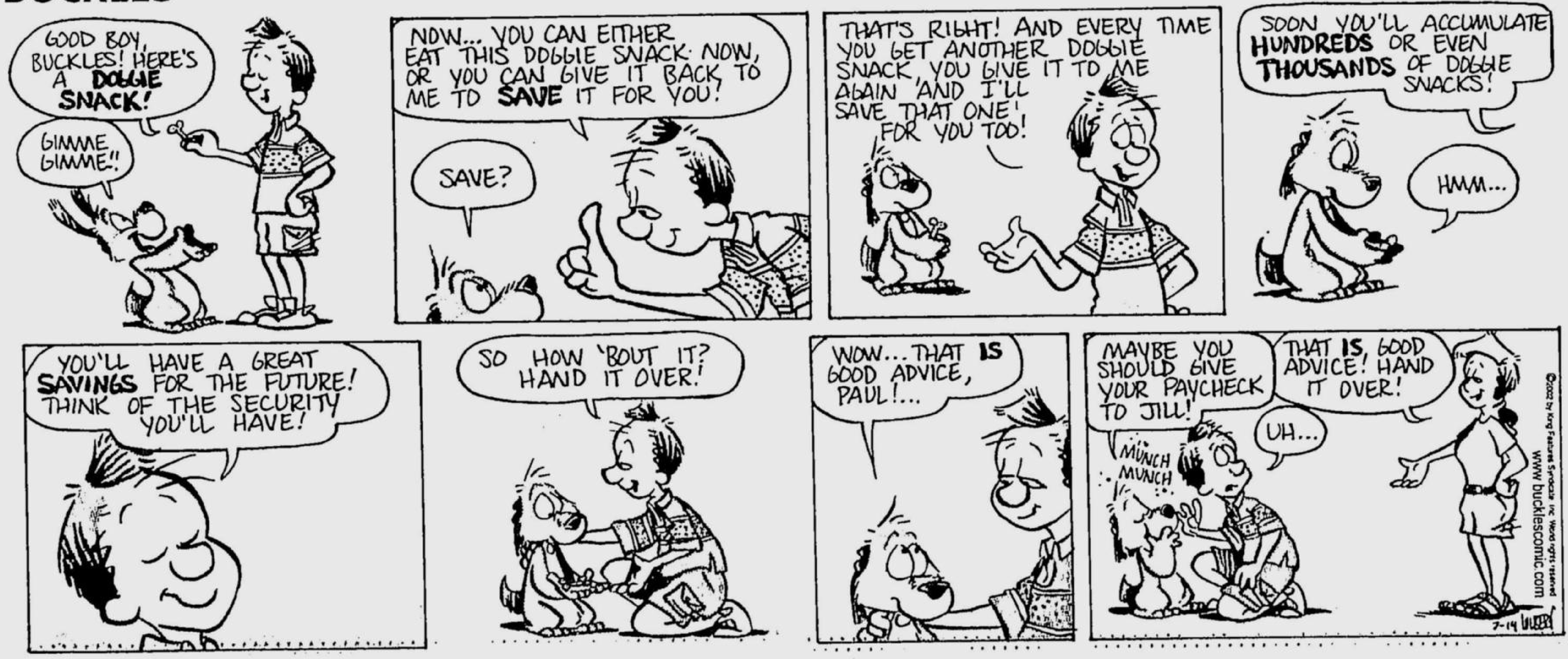
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


GOOD BOY, BUCKLES! HERE'S A DOGGIE SNACK!
GIMME GIMME!!
NOW... YOU CAN EITHER EAT THIS DOGGIE SNACK NOW, OR YOU CAN GIVE IT BACK TO ME TO SAVE IT FOR YOU!
SAVE?
THAT'S RIGHT! AND EVERY TIME YOU GET ANOTHER DOGGIE SNACK, YOU GIVE IT TO ME AGAIN AND I'LL SAVE THAT ONE FOR YOU TOO!
SOON YOU'LL ACCUMULATE HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF DOGGIE SNACKS!
HMM...
YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT SAVINGS FOR THE FUTURE! THINK OF THE SECURITY YOU'LL HAVE!
SO HOW 'BOUT IT? HAND IT OVER!
WOW... THAT IS GOOD ADVICE, PAUL!...
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE YOUR PAYCHECK TO JILL!
THAT IS, GOOD ADVICE! HAND IT OVER!
MUNCH MUNCH
UH...
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www.bucklescomic.com
7-14 GILBERT

Out of my Eyes

(from page 5)

held back and just waited to get home.

What a sad day for the world. I hope that we all will be protected and the tragedy stops.

Love and concern,
Mimo
Washington, D.C .
September 11, 2001

Mimo,

Thanks so much for sharing your day. And I encourage you to take the time to have someone spend time with you, and let you scream, cry, grieve, and feel scared. I have had the chance to do some of that many times today with people who understand how important it is to let these feelings out. These are painful feelings that none of us wants to keep in.

The feelings I have been running through today have been: this is not happening, this is just a movie. Then turning a little numb to all of the reports. Then spending a lot of time crying about all the lives lost. Thinking about how the people on the plane felt when they knew that their lives would be sacrificed to kill even more people. Then thinking about the pilots who had to be subdued because there is no way they would fly the plane into such targets even if their lives were threatened.

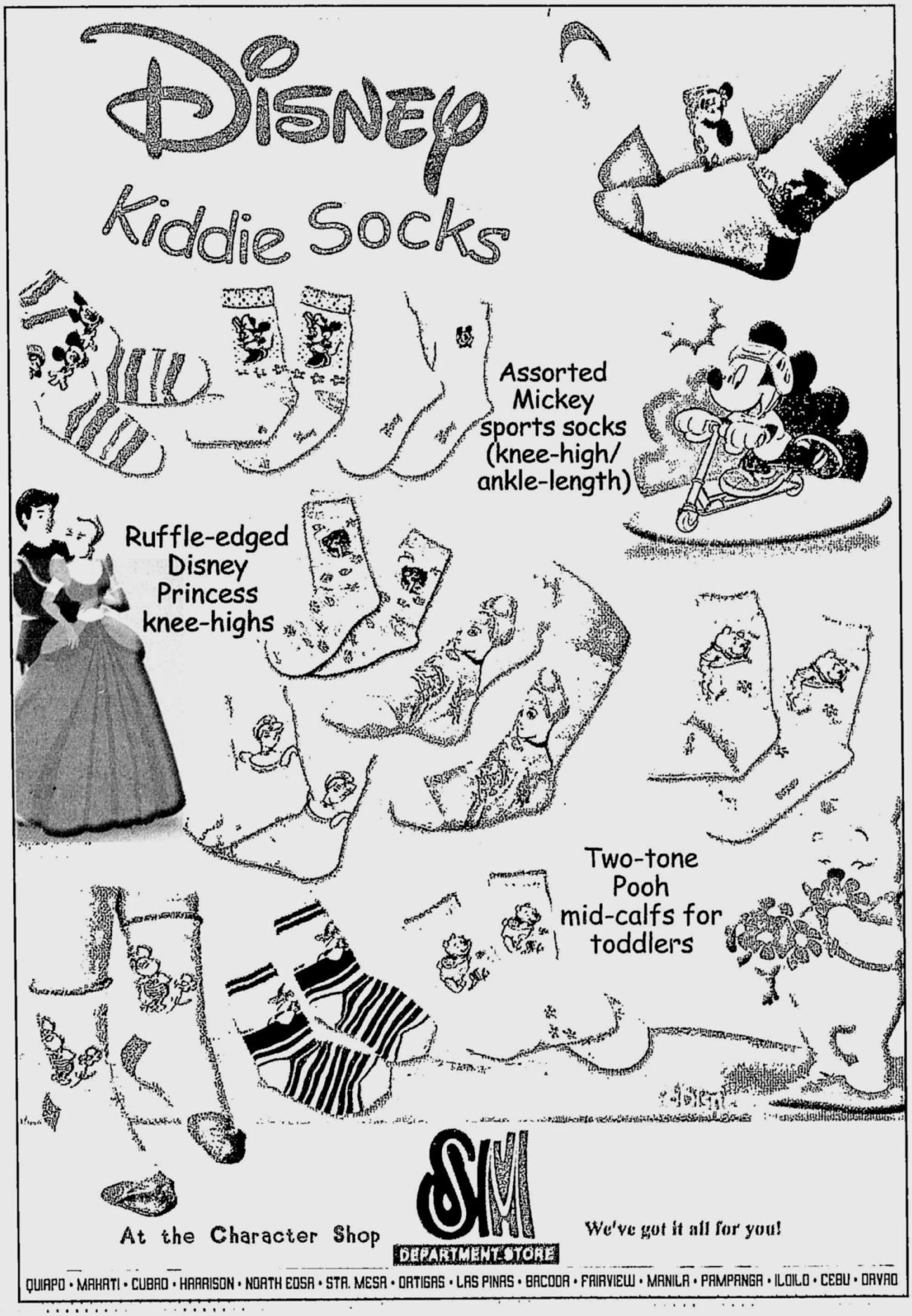
Then I thought about the people who carried out this attack. And I think of how each of these people was once a little boy or girl like my son, Avi. And how wonderful or innocent he or she is. And I keep crying over what I think must have been done to these little boys and girls to make them believe that this is their only recourse. Society can marginalize people with such brutality.

I am not seeking justification for any of these events, only understanding. And with this understanding, a way forward that can address the conditions that make wonderful human beings feel that they have to resort to such acts of violence.

Nik
Washington, D.C.
September 11, 2001

Mimo Nepomuceno-Thomas, 12, is a Filipino-Indian eighth-grader in a Washington, D.C., private school.

*Mimo's cousin, **Nikolai Nepomuceno-Leung**, 32, is a Filipino-Chinese wireless systems architect as well as a counselor affiliated with the International Re-Evaluation Counseling Communities. He lives with his South Asian wife and 2-year-old son in Washington, D.C.*


Disney
Kiddie Socks
Assorted Mickey sports socks (knee-high/ ankle-length)
Ruffle-edged Disney Princess knee-highs
Two-tone Pooh mid-calfs for toddlers
At the Character Shop
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO